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"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON,"** Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

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A Gathering of Gulls

Parker Backstrom

Gulls mean different things to different birders. There are those who take great delight in a trip to the local gull "hotspot" to search for the occasional vagrant blown down from the Arctic ice pack or up from the beaches of the Gulf of Mexico. Then there are those who stay away from the frustration of trying to pick out the first-year California Gull from among hundreds of Herrings, and they avoid gulls altogether. One of the beauties of birding is that neither group need feel guilty — this wonderful hobby can be tailored to the needs and desires of all individuals. Those who spend hours determining the ages of gulls are no more right or wrong than those who avoid them like a case of the measles.

I admit there is something about this family of birds that I find intriguing. Perhaps it's the way they seem perfectly adapted to a life on the water and in the air. Perhaps it is the beauty of their form and color — what is more striking than an adult Sabine's Gull? There are few things I delight in more than observing a gull (or tern, for that matter) that found its way to Minnesota after travelling a long distance from its native home. It may take many years and a lot of travel to enable a person to claim a dozen species of gulls on his state list, but occasionally circumstances are aligned just right and a number of species may be observed at one place at one time.

While there may seem to be no place in Minnesota which could top the Duluth area for diversity in gull species, one area near Minneapolis can boast of having the greatest number of species present at the same place and time ever in the state. Although Black Dog Lake in Dakota County is the location where Minneapolitans go for gull watching in winter, I don't think anyone could have predicted what awaited birders there the first weekend of December in 1988. This weekend was even more memorable because it coincided with the annual M.O.U. Paper Session at the Bell Museum, so hundreds of birders from across the state were gathered together at the time. As a result, some birders added as many as four species of gulls to their Minnesota lists in one morning!

On Friday, 2 December, I learned that a Lesser Black-backed Gull had been discovered by Tom Tustison at Black Dog two days earlier. My luck with this species had been poor, but I was determined to change this luck. Kim Eckert and I drove to the lake and searched for the Lesser Black-backed among the dozens of gulls loafing on the ice, and it wasn't long before we located it. Although the bird had the superficial appearance of an adult, closer scrutiny indicated it was a third-winter bird, and we wondered whether this might be the same individual, then a second-winter bird, spotted by Bob Janssen here almost exactly one year ago. An intriguing thought, to be sure. We walked to a spot closer to the gulls to get a better look at them, and shortly we were joined by Tom Tustison and Bruce Fall who had also come to look over this gathering of gulls. As we studied the gulls, Kim called our attention to an immature that appeared different from the immature Herring Gulls sleeping nearby. After observing it for some time, we agreed on the initial suspicion that this was a first-winter Great Black-backed Gull, only the second ever in Minnesota away from Lake Superior, and the first ever in the Twin Cities. As the gulls became more active and moved around, we were able to see both black-backed species standing right next to each other, certainly the first time for this to occur in Minnesota. As the word spread about this newest discovery, it was clear the attention of birders that weekend would be focused on Black Dog Lake.

Saturday may have been taken up by the Paper Session, but despite this some birders, including Renner Anderson, Jerry Bonkoski and Tom Tustison, managed to find time for a trip to Black Dog. Later that afternoon at the Bell Museum, I happened to walk by Renner as he was recounting their discovery of a first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake at the spillway between the lake and the Minnesota River. I couldn't believe it! Unfortunately it was rather late in the afternoon, and a search for the kittiwake would have to wait until the next morning.

On Sunday, Don Kienholz and I found ourselves the first to arrive at the spillway, but within minutes it seemed that nearly every active birder in the state had descended upon the scene. However, the kittiwake was nowhere to be seen then, and a feeling of disappointment settled in. But after we had all driven over to the power plant to see both black-backed gulls which had already been relocated, Paul Egeland drove up to announce the kittiwake had arrived back at the spillway. Most of us ran for our cars in a mad dash, and for the balance of the morning, birders had the luxury of watching the kittiwake swim and fly about below the spillway as it fed upon the gizzard shad congregated in the turbulent water — in addition, the same morning, birders were also staring at the Lesser Black-backed Gull through the assortment of spotting scopes present for the occasion. The Great Black-backed was less cooperative, but those who waited and searched long enough eventually got to see it. And on top of these casual and accidental species, there were other less spectacular, but no less interesting, species present: at least two Glaucous Gulls and three Thayer's Gulls as well. The Thayer's included a first-winter bird, a second-winter bird, and a beautiful adult that provided fantastic views as it flew back and forth in front of us. With the Herring and Ring-billed Gulls,

this made seven species in one morning — I wouldn't have thought this possible even in Duluth, and it was the kind of experience that provides the basis of stories among birders for years to come.

But, as unlikely as it sounds, the story wasn't finished; Black Dog wasn't through providing surprises. On Monday morning, 5 December, Kim Eckert made one last visit to the area before returning to Duluth and, along with Steve Carlson, discovered an adult Iceland Gull below the spillway. With it were the kittiwake, the Lesser Black-backed, three Thayer's, a Glaucous, plus the usual Herrings and Ring-billeds (only the Great Black-backed was absent). Seven species of gulls: not just in one day, but now in view simultaneously at close range, with species number eight (Great Black-backed) still present a short distance away on the lake!

You can bet Black Dog Lake will be visited quite frequently by gull watchers from now on. Even birders unimpressed with gulls as a group had to be impressed with this event and couldn't resist being caught up in the excitement of the moment. It may be a long time before we see such a phenomenon again, and I am glad I could be a part of this gathering of gulls. **5420 Mt. Normandale Dr., Bloomington, MN 55437**

Additional Hooded Warbler Breeding Records From Minnesota

Bruce A. Fall

After virtually annual reports of Hooded Warblers (*Wilsonia citrina*) in Minnesota since the early 1970's (Janssen 1987), this formerly accidental species was first documented as breeding in this state in early summer 1984, at Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park in extreme western Dakota County (Fall 1985). Since then, I have found two additional nests (second and fourth for the state), and discovered that this park harbored a known population of at least four to five territorial males during 1987 and 1988. I also

learned of an unsuccessful nest found in 1987 by Tom Tustison (third for the state). All four known breeding records in Minnesota (Table 1) are from Murphy-Hanrehan Park.

All nests and all but one of the territories were within a roughly rectangular area about 0.8 km north to south and 0.4 km east to west, specifically in SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ and NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Sec. 34, T115N, R21W (Dakota County.). The remaining territory was about 0.3 km farther south (Scott County.). The Dakota/Scott County border forms the west

Table 1. Summary of the four known Minnesota Hooded Warbler nests (1984-1988), Murphy-Hanrehan Regional Park, Dakota Co.

Date Found	Status When Found ^b	Nest Ht. (cm)	Supporting Plant ^c	Clutch Size	First Egg	Hatching	Outcome
10 June 1984	E	25	B	4	2 June ^e	16 or 17 June	4 fledged about 25 June
31 May 1987	E	45	C	4	20 May ^e	3 or 4 June	1 fledged 12 June; 3 eggs undeveloped
22 June 1987 ^a	B	?	?	-	-	-	Completed by 4 July; abandoned
22 May 1988	B	60	C	^d	24 May	7 or 8 June	2 fledged about 16 June

a/ found by Tom Tustison; data from MOU nest card

b/ E = eggs; B = building (under construction)

c/ B = blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*); C = black currant (*Ribes lacustre*)

d/ warbler clutch unknown: 2 warbler eggs plus 1 cowbird egg on 3 June 1988

e/ estimated by backdating

edge of this area and the eastern park boundary is on the east edge. Its southern half includes the highest hill in the park (40m local relief), which I named "Hooded Warbler Hill" since its slopes have held territories of from one to three males in four of the last five years. In all, since 1984, at least nine different locations have been used by territorial males within this area, with a known maximum of five or six territories in 1987. I have banded a total of ten individuals: one adult male, one adult female and four nestlings in 1984; two adult males and two nestlings in 1988. None of the 1984 banded birds has been resighted; all of the birds found subsequently have been unbanded. Thus, from 1984 to 1988, there have been no fewer than 16 different individuals present in this area (minimum of six adult males, three adult females and seven fledglings), and probably 20 or even more.

1986 Territory — Although I frequented Murphy-Hanrehan during the 1985 breeding season, I found no Hooded Warblers that year. The next summer (1986), I discovered a single territorial male about 250m south of the 1984 nest. When I first discovered him on 25 June, he was engaged in an aggressive encounter with a second male Hooded Warbler, who was not seen subsequently despite considerable search. Although the first male continued singing on this territory for at least another week, I obtained no evidence that he had a mate. I am rather confident that this male was not singing at this location from

late-May to mid-June, since during that time I made frequent trips to this area.

1987 Nest — On 31 May, while trying to relocate for a group of six birders a male Hooded Warbler I had seen earlier that day, I found instead a female at the same location. We watched her for 20 minutes, getting brief views as she moved through the dense vegetation, chipping frequently; eventually, she disappeared and her call notes ceased. I then began searching the nearby vegetation and shortly found the nest with the female sitting on it, incubating four eggs. One egg hatched 4 June but the other three failed to hatch. By backdating, I estimate that the first egg was laid 20 May, and thus nest building was probably initiated around 15 May. I was unable to band the single young before it fledged in the afternoon of 12 June, nor was I able to capture and band the adults. However, I continued to record the female, usually chipping at me about 25 to 50m from the nest, until 17 June. Although I visited this area on about 15 occasions from mid-May to late June, both before and after finding the nest, I saw the male only twice, and heard him sing only a single song. The nest was 45 cm off the ground in a single stem of black currant, in a rather open currant clump about 2m in diameter and 0.5 to 1m high. It was about 25m from the edge of a natural clearing, although the tree canopy overhead was 80-90% closed and about 10-12m high. The nest was 1.2m from a 30-cm-dbh green ash, and there

were five ash and one red oak (20-30 cm dbh) within 10m; shrub cover was rather sparse. About 3m away was a dry drainage bed, the lowest area in the vicinity (271m elevation, 26m below the crest of a nearby hill). The nest was 40m from a major trail, and specifically about 425m north of the 1984 nest, in extreme western Dakota Co. approximately 75m east of the Dakota/Scott Co. line.

Other 1987 Territories — In addition to this nest, I found four or five other males on territory, including a second pair. One male (#2), discovered on 2 June, occupied almost exactly the same territory as the single known territorial 1986 male. I visited this territory on 18 days for a total of about 11.5 hours from 2 June until 18 July, but obtained no evidence that this male was mated. The following year this or another male occupying the same territory nested.

On 29 June, I discovered a singing male (#3) in an area midway between the 1984 and 1987 nests. I found him regularly until 19 July, and he sang over a large territory of at least two to three hectares. Although I had believed this male to be unmated, months later I learned that on 27 June, Tom Tustison had watched a female building a nest at a location included within this territory. The nest was completed by 4 July but abandoned before 11 July apparently without receiving any eggs (information from Minnesota Breeding Record nest card submitted by Tom Tustison to Steve Wilson). The late date of initiation suggests to me that this was a re-nesting attempt from a previous, unsuccessful nest. Its location was about 250m north of the 1984 nest and was also in Dakota County.

In early July, I discovered males singing on two additional territories. One (#4) was seen and heard repeatedly from 3 July until 1 August; the other (#5) was found on 4 and 5 July only. No female was seen with either of these males. Finally, on 27 July, I discovered a pair in a new location (#6), about 200m east of territory #3. These may have been the same individuals as male #3 plus Tustison's nesting female. Although both chipped intermittently and the male sang occasionally, these birds were very shy and difficult to see: I spent 4.5 hours over two days sitting quietly or slowly searching in the ter-

ritory before I got my first glimpse of either of them (male), and another four hours before I was able to see the female. The birds' site-faithfulness, patterns of calling and furtive behavior suggested that they had either recent fledglings or a very late nest. However, when I eventually got a close view of the female (1 August), I discovered that she was in heavy molt (body and flight feathers). I consider this evidence that I had misinterpreted the birds' behavior and there was no active nest, since pre-basic molt in songbirds generally does not commence until breeding activity has ended. Although the male and female did not appear to stay or travel together, both remained in the same 1.5-ha area at least until 10 August.

1988 Nest — On 14 May, Carol Pearson saw a male and female together in the area where I eventually found the nest. This territory, with virtually the same boundaries, was occupied in both 1986 and 1987, possibly by the same male (presumably unmated in both previous years). I first saw this male on 19 May, and on 22 May I found the female and watched her for two hours. Her behavior strongly indicated that I was near her nest: she repeatedly chipped softly, and I saw her several times carrying, but then dropping, nesting material. After two hours, I found the nearly completed nest when she eventually went to it with a piece of material. She was rather tame and several times approached the nest, added material and shaped it while I was only 5m away. The first egg was laid on 24 May and the second the following day. On my next visit (3 June), the nest had two warbler eggs plus one Brown-headed Cowbird egg. The warbler eggs hatched either on 7 or (more probably) 8 June; I removed and destroyed the cowbird young the same day. On 13 June, I set up a mist net about 10m from the nest and captured and banded the male; I also banded both young (age five or six days), but was unable to net the female. Shortly after I banded the young, a wind storm downed a large dead oak, which fell 4m from the nest, opening up the area considerably. On my next check, 19 June, the nest was empty but intact with no evidence of predation; however, there was no sign of either adults or young nearby. With an eight- or nine-day nestling period, the young should have fledged on 16 or 17 June, and with no

evidence to the contrary, I presume they did.

This nest was 0.6m above the ground, in the fork of a 1.2-m-high black currant shrub. It was located at the edge of a very dense and nearly impenetrable tangle of blackberry canes and grape vines, beneath a 15- x 20-m opening in the otherwise 75 to 90% closed forest canopy. The nest (elevation 303m) was on the lower edge of the western slope of Hooded Warbler Hill, less than 25m east of the Dakota/Scott County line. The predominant tree species in this area was red oak (45-60 cm dbh) plus some American elm; saplings and shrubs included elm, hazel and basswood. The nest itself was visible from a distance of 6m from one direction and 3m from another, but only if one knew its precise location; otherwise, it was quite inconspicuous, and appeared like one of numerous small clumps of dead leaves from the previous autumn stuck in branches of low shrubs.

Other 1988 Territories — I found three or four territorial males in addition to the above breeding male. One, discovered 17 May, was near the eastern edge of the park, 500m north of Hooded Warbler Hill. The east park boundary trail bisected his territory and made it conveniently accessible so that he was fairly easy to observe. Sue Adams and I captured and banded him on 20 May by luring him into a mist net with playback of tape-recorded song. I continued to relocate him until 22 May, but not on several subsequent trips. The other males were on the slopes of Hooded Warbler Hill. Only one of these sang regularly enough for me to establish the boundaries of his territory. The slope of the hill, density of undergrowth and irregularity of singing made it difficult to determine exactly how many individuals there were, but I concluded there were no fewer than three on this hill (including the nesting male) and possibly four. I saw no females other than the one nesting.

Songs — Like some other wood warblers, Hooded Warbler males have two distinct song types. The primary song, which appears to be more common early in the breeding season in the Murphy-Hanrehan birds, is a loud, whistled “weet-ta — weet-ta — weet-teé-oh” or minor variations of this, with the second-to-last syllable strongly accented, and the final one dropping sharply in pitch. To me, this song sounds quite similar to a Magnolia

Warbler’s, although the Hooded’s is typically louder and somewhat longer. My description of the Hooded’s alternate or secondary song (recorded by Borror and Gunn 1985; examples 3 and 4) apparently more common given later in the breeding season, is “wheeu — wheeu — ta — whif — whick-eé” (or similar variations). The emphatic whistled quality is similar to the primary song, but the pitch of the notes gradually rises, with the final note the highest and also accented. This is distinct enough from the primary song to cause identification problems; to me, it is reminiscent of the song of a Canada Warbler. Males at Murphy-Hanrehan regularly sang both types, often switching from one to the other in the same song bout. On 29 June 1987, for example, I counted 87 songs over a 20-minute period from one presumably unmated male. He sang 40 primary and 47 secondary songs, and changed from one song type to the other 39 times. However, a few days later, this same male was singing mostly secondary songs — e.g., on 3 July, he sang 58 secondary songs in ten minutes, without any primary songs. A rate of some five to eight songs per minute was typical of the Murphy-Hanrehan males. For the three nests I found (all apparently successful), singing either declined considerably (two males) or was never heard (one male) after the females began incubating, and did not resume after the young fledged. For other males that I suspected were unmated, regular singing continued into mid-July, and as late as 1 August for one. In addition to male advertising song, both sexes frequently gave a rather distinctive strong, sharp, metallic call note (“chip” or “chink”); to me similar in quality to the call notes of both American Redstart and Northern Waterthrush.

Finding The Birds — The best chance of seeing Hooded Warblers is from mid-May to early June when males are still singing persistently, but please use restraint when pursuing them. There is little need for using playback of tape-recorded song; early in the season when the males are singing regularly, they are rather easily located without tapes, and later, when singing is much reduced, tapes elicit little or no response. Repeated playing of tapes early in the breeding season is probably disruptive to both male and female. Usually there is no need to leave established hik-

ing/skiing trails, since several of the territories border or are bisected by these trails. Sitting still or walking quietly along the trail is usually more productive than trying to follow a singing male through the dense undergrowth; in addition, there is always the risk of trampling a nest. The single young fledged from the 1987 nest, but I was rather surprised by this. Apparently, specific directions to this nest were passed by word of mouth, and over a two-week period many people walked the same route and closely approached the nest in order to see the incubating/brooding female. The result was a very conspicuous human-made path (still prominent 15 months later) that dead-ended less than 1.5m from the nest. This intensity of human activity and disruption of the concealing vegetation around such a low-height nest almost certainly increases its likelihood of failure (Bart 1977), particularly as a result of predation by animals that follow humans or human scent. I regularly saw red squirrel, gray squirrel, eastern chipmunk, raccoon, red fox, striped skunk, long-tailed weasel, American Crow and Blue Jay in this woodland; all are known nest predators. I urge people to refrain from unnecessarily approaching nests of this or any other rare species, especially those that nest on or near the ground and thus are particularly vulnerable to disturbance.

Habitat — Murphy-Hanrehan Park; about 11km² is situated on the south edge of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. It includes extensive areas of both woodland and open abandoned farmland. The open grassland, with smaller, discontinuous tracts of woodland, is found in the southern half of the park (south and southeast of Murphy Lake), while the woodland, an estimated 4.5 km² of rolling hills of oak forest (270 to 333 m elevation) interspersed with small ponds (about one per 10 ha) and laced with a broad network of ski and horse trails, occupies the northern half (mostly north of Sunset Lake Road). The eastern two-thirds of this is essentially continuous mature woodland, while the remainder contains some openings and second growth. Woodland vegetation is dry to dry-mesic southern hardwood forest (Curtis 1959), with red, white and bur oaks and American and slippery elm predominant, but with some other tree species locally important, including sugar maple, basswood, ironwood, boxelder,

quaking aspen and bigtooth aspen. The woody understory is generally rather dense and includes oak, elm and ironwood saplings plus hazel, prickly-ash, dogwoods, currants and blackberry. The park is surrounded by open farmland and pasture to the south and west, and extensive and accelerating residential development to the north and east.

The concentration of Hooded Warbler territories in a small portion of the continuous woodland is not an artifact of greater search effort in that area, since I spent as much or more time in most other parts of the park. However, this pattern is consistent with habitat preferences reported elsewhere (Whitcomb et al. 1981). This species is a forest-interior specialist during the breeding season. It is dependent on extensive, unbroken woodland, avoids forest margins and is intolerant of forest fragmentation. It tends to occur in loose colonies, which may attract new individuals while unoccupied but seemingly suitable areas remain vacant. The occupied area at Murphy-Hanrehan fits this description: it is surrounded on all sides by similar but apparently unoccupied woodland of from 100-200 m (east) up to 1 km or more (south). Although there is little obvious difference in vegetation structure between the occupied and unoccupied woodland, inspection of aerial photos reveals that the occupied woodland is more mature. A half century ago, most of what is now Murphy-Hanrehan woodland was more open and discontinuous than today, with trees scattered or in small groves and clearings more frequent (1937 aerial photo). However, one area on the 1937 photo is conspicuous as a nearly continuous wooded block of about 50 ha; this block coincides closely with the area today occupied by Hooded Warblers. The greater maturity of the forest in the occupied area compared with the surrounding woodland may be a factor that influenced the location of this small colony of Hooded Warblers.

Distribution — Excluding the Murphy-Hanrehan birds, there have been about 35 Hooded Warblers reported in *The Loon*, most within the last decade. Not surprisingly, most reports of this southeastern species have been from the heavily birded Twin Cities area, and south and east of there. The nearest known breeding population is in the Baraboo Hills, Sauk Co., Wisconsin, about 325 km southeast

of Murphy-Hanrehan, where there were an estimated 20 territories in the late 1970's (Mossman and Lange 1982) and four nests found in 1980 (Brittingham and Temple 1980); the first reported nesting in Wisconsin was in 1975. Mossman and Lange (1982) summarized the recent (since 1940's) increase of this species in southern Wisconsin, which is of greater magnitude than the increase in Minnesota (over 100 Wisconsin records through 1978), and preceded it by two or three decades. To the south, in Iowa, this species also has been increasing (over 40 records through 1981), the increase occurring about a decade earlier than in Minnesota (Dinsmore et al. 1984). Data from Breeding Bird Surveys (Robbins et al. 1986) indicate that over its breeding range as a whole, relative population density of this species remained stable over the period 1965-1979, while in the eastern part of its range it increased somewhat.

There is no reason to think that Murphy-Hanrehan Park is or will remain the only breeding area in Minnesota for this species, which clearly is expanding northwestward into this state. The most suggestive recent record of a possible additional breeding locality was from Carver Park Reserve, Carver County, where a female was seen in May 1988 in the same general area where a male apparently was territorial during early June of the previous year (*The Loon* 60:93-94). A number of other extensive deciduous woodlands in southeastern Minnesota (including Whitewater WMA, Nerstrand Woods, White-water, Forestville and Beaver Creek Valley State Parks, among others) might also be likely sites for the discovery of the next Minnesota breeding locality of Hooded Warblers.

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Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

Before listing the records voted on during the last half of 1988, there were several topics of discussion at our 4 December 1988 meeting which I have summarized below.

1) It was decided that records of casuals and accidentals documented with a photograph, specimen or sound recording would be voted on from now on; formerly, such records supported by "clearly identifiable" photos, specimens or recordings were accepted without a vote.

2) Bill Pieper moved out of state during 1988 and he decided to resign from the Committee. He was replaced by alternate member Terry Savaloja, and Terry's former place as an alternate has not yet been filled at the time of this writing (Tom Tustison had been named to fill this vacancy, but unfortunately he too has recently moved out of state).

3) Although House Finch is still officially listed as a Casual species on the state list, there have been so many records in recent months, especially in the Twin Cities, it was decided that a vote is no longer needed on all records. It will be up to the discretion of the Chairman to decide which records will still require documentation and/or a vote; this decision will depend on the experience of the observers and the location of the observation, with records in western and northern Minnesota tending to require a vote more often.

4) Minnesota's three Acceptable Anhinga records were discussed, and it was decided a new vote should be taken on all three records, especially after an observer involved in one of the records indicated he felt his record should be withdrawn. As discussed below, all three records were found Unacceptable, and the species has now been removed from the Minnesota list. The official list now stands at 403 species after the deletions of Anhinga and Mountain Plover and the addition of Magnificent Frigatebird (listed below under Acceptable records).

5) The identification of Clark's Grebe was discussed, since some doubt remains about the validity and variation of some of the field marks. It was decided to request additional

input from out-of-state "experts" on the 11 possible Minnesota Clark's Grebe records (four of these have been voted on and are currently Unacceptable, three have been voted Acceptable, and four have not yet been voted on by the Committee). After these expert opinions have been received, some records may be reconsidered, and an article in *The Loon* will update the identification and Minnesota status of this species.

6) The identification and Minnesota status of another problem species, the Western Sandpiper, was also discussed. Although this species is currently recognized as Regular on the Minnesota list, its true status and relative abundance is unknown — it may prove to be only Casual — primarily because other species are often misidentified as Westerns, because so few sight records have been satisfactorily documented, and because, at the time of this writing, there are no known Western Sandpiper photos or specimens taken in Minnesota. As a result, until this species' status becomes clarified, all Western Sandpiper records must be documented by the observers and voted on by the Committee. Also, if anyone knows of any past photographic or specimen records of Western Sandpiper in Minnesota, they are asked to submit these records to the Committee.

When identifying a sandpiper suspected of being a Western, please note the following:

—Although Western Sandpipers in breeding or alternate plumage should be obvious and pose little difficulty, and birds in Minnesota in winter or basic plumage can cause some confusion, most of the problems involves juvenile "peeps" seen in Minnesota during fall migration.

—Juvenile Semipalmated Sandpipers are often misidentified as Westerns because they may have rusty feather edges on the scapulars, back or tertials, and because female Semipalmateds can have bills which overlap the length and "drooping" shape of the Western.

—Juvenile Least Sandpipers are also easily misidentified as Westerns; they also have ob-

vious rusty feather edges on the upperparts, their bills are decurved, and their legs can easily appear black when muddy or when seen in poor light or at a distance.

—Dunlins and White-rumped Sandpipers when in juvenile plumage or when molting from juvenile into winter/basic plumage are also possible sources of confusion: both have bills which droop at the tip, black legs and rusty feather edges on the upperparts; also the underparts streaking on breeding/alternate plumaged White-rumped and Westerns is similar and may also lead to misidentification.

—A peep in full winter/basic plumage in Minnesota that appears to be a Semipalmated or Western, is almost certainly *not* a Semi, since Semipalmateds in this plumage are seldom if ever seen this far north; however, be aware that winter/basic plumaged Sanderlings can easily be miscalled Westerns.

—Do *not* attempt to identify a Western with the aid of the Peterson or Robbins or even, surprisingly enough, the Geographic field guides; all three, especially the first two, are inadequate in their coverage of this difficult identification problem.

—Do *not* attempt to identify a Western unless you have the aid of either or both of the following references: *Shorebirds: An Identification Guide to the Waders of the World* by Hayman, Marchant and Prater; and the article "Field Identification of Smaller Sandpipers Within the Genus *Calidris*" By Veit and Jonsson, published in *American Birds* 38:853-876 and reprinted in 41:212-236. Also highly recommended is the sandpipers section of Volume I of *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*; the photographs are especially helpful (although it should be noted that the winter plumaged Semipalmated Sandpiper photo is probably a Western).

—Finally, and perhaps most importantly, remember that Western Sandpiper identification is a difficult task and that there is no reason to feel defensive or frustrated or even angry if errors are made: many experienced birders, including this writer, have been misled into misidentifications until the three references recommended above became available.

The following records were voted on July-December 1988, and found to be Acceptable:

—Prothonotary Warbler, 8/1-5/87, near Park Rapids, Hubbard Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:129).

—Williamson's Sapsucker, 5/21-30/88, Itasca S.P., Hubbard Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:124-125).

—Sprague's Pipit, 6/26/88, near Aitkin, Aitkin Co. (vote 5-2; *The Loon* 60:187).

—Blue Grosbeak, 7/1-7/88, Felton Prairie, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:129-130).

—Least Tern, 7/30/88, Lake Wilson, Murray Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:135).

—White-faced Ibis, 4/23/88, Salt L., Lac Qui Parle Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:137).

—Laughing Gull, 5/5/88, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:134).

—Baird's Sparrow, 6/24/88, Felton prairie, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:132-133).

—Great Black-backed Gull, 5/5/88, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:134).

—House Finch, 6/15-8/6/88, Albert Lea, Freeborn Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:186).

—Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 8/2-8/88, near Ely, St. Louis Co. (vote 7/0; *The Loon* 60:179-180).

—Ruff, 8/9-14/88, French L., Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:181).

—Greater Scaup, 9/14/88, Sleepy Eye, Brown Co. (vote 6-1).

—Ruff, 8/21/88, Geis L., Scott Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:181).

—Say's Phoebe, 9/26/88, near Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7/0; *The Loon* 60:180-181).

—Black-legged Kittiwake, 11/8/88, Hastings, Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:187-188).

—Long-billed Curlew, 10/9/88, near L. Swenoda, Pope Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:186).

—Red-throated Loon, 5/27/88, Duluth, St. Louis Co., (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:186).

—Pacific Loon, 10/21/88, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0).

—Carolina Wren, 10/29-30/88, Coon Rapids, Anoka Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 60:188-189).

—Magnificent Frigatebird, 10/1/88, Acacia Cemetery, Dakota Co. (vote 10-0;). All ten members vote in cases of potential first state records.

—Louisiana Waterthrush, 8/9/88, Lake Bronson S.P., Kittson Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:46-47)

—Lesser Black-backed Gull, 9/11-14/88, Diamond L., Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:44-45).

—King Eider, 10/30-11/2/88, Grand Marais,

Cook Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:38-39).

The following records were voted on July-December 1988, and found to be Unacceptable:

—Greater Scaup, 7/9/88, Carlos Avery WMA, Anoka Co. (vote 3-4).

Although it was agreed the observer may well have seen a Greater Scaup, the majority felt not enough was seen to eliminate Lesser Scaup. The identification was based on impressions of bill and body sizes, but there was no direct comparison available with anything to make these impressions diagnostic. The only other useful mark noted was the "flat-crowned" head-shape which tends to suggest Lesser Scaup more than Greater; also this scaup was apparently in eclipse plumage when head shape is unreliable.

—Cassin's Finch, 4/7/88, Crosby, Crow Wing Co. (vote 0-7).

It was agreed that the described face pattern, overall size, bill shape and undertail coverts all indicated this may well have been a female Cassin's Finch. The problem is that the observers were unable to see the bird long enough and well enough to provide a completely detailed description of these and other field marks. It was learned from the 1987 Duluth record that Cassin's vs. Purple Finch identification requires long and careful scrutiny of the bird involved along with good photos or meticulous written details, none of which were possible in this case.

—Mountain Plover, 7/2-5/86, Faribault Co. (vote 0-10; *The Loon* 58:154-158).

See *The Loon* 60:146-148 for a summary of why this previously accepted and published record was reconsidered; all ten members vote in cases of potential first state records.

—House Finch, 5/14/88, Golden Valley, Hennepin Co. (vote 1-6).

The identification was only based on the bird's song, which was not described in enough detail to eliminate Purple Finch.

—Osprey, 3/6/88, near Albert Lea, Freeborn Co. (vote 3-4).

The sketchy description only mentioned the wing profile and black wrist patches; the majority voted not to accept because the possibility of Rough-legged Hawk was not eliminated by these details.

—Northern Wheatear, 9/10/88, Maple Grove, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7).

Although the description of the rump and tail would seem to indicate a wheatear, the ob-

server did not use binoculars during the observation, and none of the rest of the plumage was described; it was felt such an unusual species should have more complete documentation.

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 9/17/88, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 0-7). The identification of this presumed female was based only on the "mostly" unstreaked "golden yellow" underparts; however, juvenile male Rose-breasteds can also match this pattern, and it is necessary to observe the color of the under wing linings to separate these two.

—House Finch, 7/31/88, Golden Valley, Hennepin Co. (vote 3-4).

It was agreed that this may well have been a female or immature House Finch, especially since so many had been in the Twin Cities recently; however, the undertail coverts were described as unstreaked which would tend to eliminate House Finch, and the tail appeared to be too deeply notched for a House Finch.

—House Finch, 3-31-4/18/88, Austin, Mower Co. (vote 0-7).

The identification of this female was based entirely on a less distinct facial pattern; however, the observer did not explain how he eliminated immature Purple Finch or Pine Siskin or even female Cassin's Finch, all of which have an indistinct face pattern.

—Anhinga, 7/22/88, Stewartville, Olmsted Co. (vote 1-6).

This identification was based on its wing-drying posture and orange-colored bill, but the observers apparently were unaware that cormorants dry their wings in the same way and that the orange at the base of their bill can make the bill itself appear orange. In flight the neck was described as "slightly bent," which also fits cormorant, and, even though the bird was seen perched at close range, there was no mention of the obvious white spotting on the wing coverts which even immature Anhingas would show.

Acadian Flycatcher, 7/15/88, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 1-6).

This Empidonax was identified solely on the basis of its plumage; there was no direct comparison with any other bird, and more importantly no vocalization was ever heard. Nothing in the description eliminated the more likely possibility of an early fall migrant Alder Flycatcher.

—Pine Grosbeak, 6/30/88, Sax-Zim bog, St. Louis Co. (vote 3-4).

Although it was agreed the identification may well have been correct, the majority had too many doubts about the record since there was no mention of why White-winged Crossbill was eliminated, and the brief details also failed to mention anything about the observer's experience with the species, the light conditions, the duration of the observation, or the distance involved.

—Pine Grosbeak, 6/11/88, Sturgeon Lake, Pine Co. (vote 1-6).

Although this record's documentation was more detailed than the Sax-Zim record, there were still too many uncertainties for the majority to accept. The observer had no experience with this species, and the somewhat vague details were unclear about the presence or absence of wing bars and about how the bird's "much larger" size was determined.

—Anhinga, 9/20/82, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 0-10; *The Loon* 55:28-30).

—Anhinga, 5/26/84, Louisville Swamp, Scott Co. (vote 1-9; *The Loon* 56:203).

—Anhinga, 4/27/85, near Buffalo, Wright Co. (vote 1-9; *The Loon* 58:46).

All ten members vote in cases of potential first state records. The observers in all three records based their identifications on: a long tail about the same length as the head and

neck, with two of the birds fanning their tails out at times; a thin, straight neck tapering into a small head, giving a "headless" impression; and a soaring, buteo-like flight with wings stretched out flat. At the time of these sightings none of the observers or M.O.R.C. members voting for the records felt that Double-crested Cormorant, the only similar species, could duplicate the shape and flight described. However, in September 1988, one of the observers saw a flock of about 30 cormorants flying over Hawk Ridge in Duluth: many had a tail which appeared the same as the neck-head length, and, more importantly, some of the birds clearly fanned their tails when circling overhead; some individuals held their necks out perfectly straight, with no characteristic cormorant "crook" in the neck, leaving an impression of neck, head and bill tapering to a point; and, when soaring, the cormorants' wings appeared long and flat. On the basis of this sighting, the observer withdrew his earlier Anhinga record, and the Committee felt that the other two records should similarly be found Unacceptable since Double-crested Cormorant was not precluded. 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804



BOOK REVIEWS

ATLAS OF WINTERING NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS: An Analysis of Christmas Bird Count Data; by Terry Root, 1988. University of Chicago Press, Foreword by Chandler S. Robbins, 312 pages, 596 maps, soft-bound, \$35.00, hard-cover, \$60.00.

Have you ever wondered why — when it is ten degrees below zero and that bone-chilling Alberta Clipper cuts right through your Sorels, long underwear, wool pants and your

double-knit ski socks — you volunteered to participate in a Christmas Bird Count? If so, Terry Root's new book, *Atlas of Wintering North American Birds*, will help provide you with an answer. Ten years of Christmas Bird Count data (1963-1972) from 1282 count sites across the United States and southern Canada have been analyzed and summarized into accounts describing the winter distribution of 508 species. Unique contour and three-dimensional maps depicting both range and

abundance patterns for 346 of these species are also included.

Atlas of Wintering North American Birds represents a milestone in bird population studies. It is the first comprehensive assessment of the distribution and abundance of winter birds in North America. The book is also a tribute to the thousands of birders across the U.S. and Canada who volunteer each holiday season to count birds in weather conditions that are often less than hospitable. Begun in the year 1900, the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) were initially promoted as an alternative to large-scale bird hunts that were a tradition on Christmas Day. No doubt the twenty-seven individuals who participated in the first CBC would be surprised at the continued popularity of the event. In 1987, over 41,000 bird enthusiasts counted millions of winter birds in 1544 count circles in the U.S. and Canada alone. As Chandler Robbins points out in his foreword to the book, "no other organized birding activity on earth can match the North American Christmas Bird Count in participation or continuity."

Despite the quantity of data that has been collected over the years, professional ornithologists have largely ignored the CBC results. Although annual summaries are published in *American Birds*, more comprehensive analyses are rarely attempted. The sheer volume of data has, in itself, been a deterrent. Of equal concern to many researchers is the lack of standardization in conducting the counts. Unlike the federal breeding bird surveys or the breeding bird censuses, the CBCs vary considerably in the number of participants, the number of hours spent surveying and the amount of area within the survey area that is covered. The competitive spirit of the event also encourages birders to strive to count as many different species as possible. Sites of high bird activity may be staked out days in advance and proportionately more time spent there on the day of the count than elsewhere in the 15-mile diameter count circle.

In spite of these problems, the Christmas Bird Count can be a tremendous source of data on winter bird populations, particularly for common and widely dispersed species. Much of the credit for promoting the use of CBC data for large-scale population studies belongs to Carl Bock, ornithologist and popu-

lation ecologist at the University of Colorado. With funding from the National Science Foundation, Bock tackled one of the major obstacles to using the CBC data and computerized the records from a ten-year sample period, 1963-1972. Once this monumental task was completed, Bock's analysis of winter population trends for a variety of species, including crossbills, blue jays and woodpeckers, began to demonstrate the powerful utility of the CBC data. Indeed it is Bock's computerized files that provide the foundation for the CBC analysis presented in Terry Root's *Atlas of Wintering North American Birds*.

The book begins with a thorough explanation of how data were converted to the distribution and abundance maps that are the publication's main feature. Although the reader can garner some sense of a species winter distribution without reading the introductory materials, understanding the data analysis is critical to fully understanding both the utility and limitations of maps. This is particularly important since, unlike standard range maps, they also illustrate relative abundance.

The introduction also explains why maps were not prepared for all 508 species discussed in the text. Some species (162) were simply too rare; over the ten-year period they were seen at fewer than 40 count locations. Other species were seen at less than ten sites and are not included in the text at all. Maps for another 96 species are shown only in Appendix B. These species tend to demonstrate behaviors that are irruptive, nomadic or gregarious, and interpretations of their abundance patterns can be misleading. Examples include Red Crossbills, Bohemian Waxwings and numerous waterfowl species.

The introduction concludes with discussion of seven major environmental factors that strongly influence winter distribution factors. Among the factors examined are average minimum January temperature, mean annual precipitation, and elevation. In keeping with the trend of many new breeding bird atlas publications, transparent overlays that illustrate contour intervals for each of these factors are included in the book's back cover. Overlays that display the location of count sites, national wildlife refuges, state and province boundaries, and 5° and 1° latitude/longitude lines are also included.

The main body of the text contains the written accounts of each species' distribution;

250 of the accounts are accompanied by contour and three-dimensional maps that illustrate range and abundance patterns. The two-dimensional contour maps delineate the edge of the species winter range (defined as 0.5% of the maximum number of birds seen per hour) and contour intervals that are 20%, 40%, 60% and 80% of the maximum abundance. The three-dimensional maps are simply a different way of portraying the same information. The written text provides more details about each species' winter distribution, noting sites of particularly high concentrations, correlations between winter distribution and various environmental factors, and a brief description of the bird's winter ecology.

Root has done an excellent job compiling and translating the CBC data into an invaluable reference guide for professionals and amateurs alike. The detailed descriptions of each species' winter distribution are comprehensive and informative.

My only major criticism of the book pertains to the three-dimensional maps. I found many of them more difficult to interpret than the two-dimensional maps. The relative height of many of the peaks and troughs are unclear and some peaks on the very edge of the maps are barely discernible. The fishnet background of the entire map was also hard on my eyes and made it difficult to focus. Eventually I found myself referring only to the two-dimensional contour maps. The three-dimensional maps were a nice way to illustrate the capabilities of computer graphics but really impressed me as being more showy than informational.

Another concern is the significance placed upon rare and unusual sightings. The importance of isolated observations of single individuals in areas distant from their major winter range is over-emphasized in the analysis and on the maps they may appear as fairly large distribution centers. For example: in 1971, one Red-necked Grebe was sighted on a cooling pond of a power plant in Nevada — a location many miles from the species' primary coastal winter habitats. Nevertheless, the resulting computer map delineates this one observation as an area the size of West Virginia and suggests the presence of a significant inland wintering population. Such anomalies are always discussed in the text but clearly point out the importance of having

the reader consult both the text and the map.

Other problems are considerably less significant and include missing arrows from figures and the exclusion of mean winter ocean-surface temperatures from the transparent overlays. Because the distribution maps only illustrate winter range in southern Canada and the U.S., the species accounts are also limited to a discussion of this geographic area. It would have been helpful if the text also included a brief statement about the species' winter distribution outside of this area, particularly in Central and South America.

These, however, are minor points and should not detract from the reader's interest in the book. It is, in the end, an invaluable reference that compiles information that cannot be found in other bird literature. When you receive a call next winter asking you to participate in the upcoming Christmas Bird Count, you can volunteer knowing full well that your time is well-spent and making a valuable contribution to our knowledge of winter bird ecology and distribution. Following the count, pack your bags and head for all the marvelous winter birding spots in warmer climates to the south, for the *Atlas of Wintering North American Birds* is also a wonderful compendium of information on winter hot spots! **Lee A. Pfanmuller**

★ ★ ★ ★
A second review

Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter CBC's) are a heck of a lot of fun. For many, they are the social event of the birding year, representing a venerable tradition dating back to the turn of the century. For others, a CBC provides recreational competition: will we see more species than last year, who will find the best rarity, will Rochester or Duluth or someone else finish first in Minnesota?

CBC's: a lot of fun, but little else, and anyone who pretends that they are anything more is sadly mistaken. Too many uncontrollable variables prevail. There is still late fall migration going on in late December, even as far north as Minnesota, so that many of the birds on a CBC do not represent truly wintering species. A host of weather variables run rampant — cold or wind or precipitation will limit the number of birds detected. Observers' skills vary widely: many are inexperi-

enced, and a lot of published misidentifications result. Many birds are just plain missed as well, as some birders ignore call notes or glimpses which would be quite identifiable to another; in addition, casual birders may fail to put in the effort needed to thoroughly cover their area, while those in a neighboring area or CBC circle are more careful. Even a CBC full of expert and dedicated birders has little scientific value — the emphasis is on rarities and on finding the most species, not on making accurate counts of individuals. And CBC locales are hardly randomly and evenly scattered across the continent and its habitats; instead, they tend to be located where the birders live and where these birders figure they can tally the longest list. Clearly, none of this chaos is measurable, manageable or scientifically valid, nor is it meant to be. Again, it's just a lot of fun.

However, the author and publisher forged ahead anyway, and *Atlas of Wintering North American Birds* is the sad result, a deeply flawed attempt to use CBC data to illustrate winter ranges and relative abundance. Not only are raw CBC data hopelessly crippled by all the aforementioned variables, but this book's premise is shaken even more by using data 16-25 years out-of-date. Amazingly, the author only included CBC's from the 1962-63 through 1971-72 seasons to generate her range maps, and only because these CBC's had already been put in someone's computer! As a result we end up with information that is both unscientific and dated. While current CBC data are shaky enough, old CBC information is even worse. There were far fewer counts and counters 20 years ago, leaving far too many gaps in the coverage of the continent. In addition, as unreliable as many of today's CBC records are, those of previous decades were even more inadequate in their documentation and editing.

The author should have been able to figure out for other obvious reasons that her project was destined for failure. Disregarding some 100 rarities, a total of 508 regularly wintering species was left to atlas. Yet only 250 computer-generated maps manage to appear in the main text — something is obviously and decidedly wrong when less than half the species fit into a book's concept and format. There are no fewer than 162 species discussed, but not mapped, in the text, since they failed to be recorded often enough on

CBC's. And another 96 species have their maps relegated to an appendix actually entitled, "Maps With Possible Problems." For a variety of reasons, the author explains that these species' relative abundances as recorded on CBC's are possibly misleading. No kidding! But if these maps are admittedly flawed, why are they included at all? If not their relative abundance, are these species' ranges worth showing? Hardly. Not when Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks, Swainson's Thrushes and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks are shown wintering widely in the northern U.S., and not when ranges within Minnesota for 23 species are inaccurate: e.g., no Canada Geese or Black-backed Woodpeckers are shown wintering anywhere in the state (I wonder what those 30,000 waterfowl on Rochester's Silver Lake really are!); starlings are allegedly absent from western Minnesota; and Peregrines are shown to winter in northwestern Minnesota while barn-owls are supposedly regular in the southeast. If Minnesota is typical, multiply 23 errors times 48 states and we have well over 1000 inaccuracies. Possible problems, indeed!

As expected, the maps in the main part of the text — those supposedly without problems — are no better in their accuracy. Roughly *two-thirds* of those species with winter ranges in Minnesota are wrong: again, it is not unreasonable to assume that we can therefore safely believe only a third of the ranges within other states. Also, there are no maps at all for Greater Prairie-Chicken, Spruce Grouse or Rock Dove, and the eastern half of the House Finch map is obviously invalid. Even those relatively few maps that seem to be reasonably accurate are based on a needlessly complex formula for relative abundance, and their design makes them difficult to read and a strain on the eyes. Simple shading depicting birds per CBC part-hour could have shown the same thing in a clearer way. The three-dimensional maps are especially irritating. They are very hard to figure out and not at all helpful since they show nothing the two-dimensional contour maps doesn't show. Their sole purpose is apparently to show what computer technology can do. If so, this book, then, amounts to nothing more than a badly-designed computer game that no one can win at.

About the only feature of the book I like is the set of transparencies designed to place

over the range maps. They show CBC locations, state and latilong lines, climate, elevation and vegetation; inexplicably, however, there's also an overlay plotting the location of National Wildlife Refuges and federal Wetlands Management Districts. Their significance, especially those which are not CBC sites, is a mystery: just what is a Wetlands Management District anyway, why are they included in the book, and who even cares about (or ever heard of) site 182, the Litchfield, Minnesota district?

Imagine if there were a Rand McNally Road Atlas with maps based on information provided by inexperienced and inconsistent cartographers, with highways shown only as they were decades ago, if it only included half the states, if the state borders and cities were plotted inaccurately, an atlas with maps you found difficult to read, and if about a fifth of the maps were in a section labelled "Maps With Possible Problems." Would you buy it in preparation for a drive across the U.S.? I don't think so. Similarly, it makes little if any sense to add *Atlas of Wintering North American Birds* to your library, not unless you're interested in an incomplete set of out-of-date, inaccurate and hard-to-read range maps based on unscientific, unmanageable variables. This may be the Age of Computers, and bird atlasing may be the current rage in many states, but, for those computerphobics like myself, for those birders in Minnesota and elsewhere who lack a state atlas, this book will make us feel we may be better off without them.

I can't seem to get the title of Appendix B, "Maps With Possible Problems," out of

my head — it's like an irritating jingle you hear on a commercial that won't go away. It should have served as inspiration for a better title for the whole book: *Atlas With Definite Problems*. **Kim R. Eckert**

SUMMER BIRD FEEDING by John V. Dennis with illustrations by Irene Brady, The Audubon Workshop Inc., Northbrook, Illinois, 1988, 136 pp., \$9.95 ppd., soft.

John Dennis is the author of other books on bird feeding; this one was written at the specific request of the publisher. In compiling his data, he used a nationwide questionnaire soliciting information from persons all over the country who feed birds in the summer. (A few Minnesotans are quoted as respondents). Once he has given convincing arguments for the practice of summer feeding, he moves through many related areas of interest, including what birds you can expect, feeding related to nesting, suggestions for the types of food to feed, the importance of water and ways to provide it, how to attract hummingbirds, backyard habitat, seed spoilage problems/cures, and bird rehabilitation. There is a lot of good information packed into a very few pages. The illustrations are, in sum, charming; I especially like the one of a red squirrel being thwarted by a bubble baffle (on page 77). Before you put away the feeders you've had up all winter, you might want to read this book first. You may decide to leave some or all of them in place and succumb to the joys of summer bird feeding. **Anne Marie Plunkett**

KEY TO THE SUMMER SEASON

SPECIES — names in bold face capitals — indicate a casual or accidental summer record (**TUNDRA SWAN**).

Counties and/or **Dates** in bold face capitals and lower case — indicate an unusual summer location or date (**Hennepin** — 7/17).

Counties in italics — indicate a county in which positive nesting has been documented for the first time since 1970 (*Norman*).

* — indicate contributors submitting nest or brood cards only.



Young Northern Hawk-Owl, June 1988, Whyte Road, Lake County. Photo by Steve Wilson.

The Summer Season June 1 to July 31, 1988

Terry Wiens

Foreword by Kim R. Eckert

At the time of this writing in early March, my meteorological memories go no farther back than last week's extreme cold (with lows in excess of minus 40 in the north) which was followed by a raging blizzard which shut down most of the state. The good news about such savage winter weather is that it makes

it easy to forget the excesses of last summer's extremes of heat and drought. But that's what I'm here for — it's a dirty job but someone's got to do it — to summarize the weather and its effects on 1988's breeding season.

Oddly enough, there was some cold weather news last summer, especially in north-

eastern Minnesota. Isabella managed a hard freeze 9 June with a low of 25°; with a 30° frost as late as 29 June. Then, just two days later, Duluth set an all-time July record with a low of 35°. But, of course, it was a lot hotter most of the time: even Duluth managed to rebound from that near-freezing 1 July to set record highs on eight July dates. It was much worse farther south, as these figures from the Twin Cities attest: by the end of the period, 31 July, no fewer than 34 days with a temperatures of 90° or higher were recorded; the previous summer record of 36 such dates was later shattered during August. Indeed, as our birding summer season ended 31 July, the high reached 105°, just three degrees shy of the all-time Twin Cities record. In all, there were four dates which reached 100°, which tied the record set back in 1947.

Just as devastating as the heat was the drought. Although northeastern Minnesota ended the year with normal or even above normal precipitation (thanks to a wet August), most of the state was extremely dry. Just 1.7 inches of rain fell on the Twin Cities during June and July, and by 31 July flowage levels on the Mississippi River were only about a third of the levels on the same date in 1987. Needless to say, wetlands dried up all over the state, with obvious detrimental effects on water birds. But even species partial to terrestrial habitats were adversely affected as both insect-eaters and vegetarians found both bugs and buds in scarce supply, and there were certainly many nest and brood failures. While the drought was good news for mosquito-hating humans, the bad news was that warblers and other birds thrive on such insects. Once again, for the third consecutive year, such birds fled south prematurely in mid and late July, presumably because of a warm spring encouraging early nesting and a hot, dry summer discouraging nesting success.

One can only assume that the weather tended to keep most birders home in front of their air conditioners, and coverage throughout the state must have suffered. However, almost 900 nest or brood cards were submitted, about 100 or more than in 1987, (although in both the 1986 and 1987 summers well over 1,000 cards were turned in). Breeding was confirmed for only 154 species, compared with 159 in 1987, and a lot fewer than the 170+ such records in 1983, 1985 and 1986. Nestor Hiemenz and Jack Sprenger are

to be commended this season for ignoring the heat and turning up 166 and 107 nesting records respectively.

It is unfortunate that so many birders tended to stay home since, in spite of — or because of? — the heat and drought, it was an eventful season. The biggest news involved the unprecedented Dickcissel invasion, as described in *The Loon* 60: 143-144. One is probably safe in assuming that other grassland species also moved farther north and east than normal for the same reasons as the Dickcissel. The now-casual Sprague's Pipit wandered east as far as Aitkin County, and actual nesting was recorded in Polk County, one of the very few such records ever in the state. Similarly, a few Lark Buntings turned up (including one in Aitkin County); Baird's Sparrows were found at Felton Prairie for the first time in eight years; Grasshopper Sparrows were unexpected in northeastern Minnesota; and Henslow's Sparrows wandered north as far as Hubbard and (where else?) Aitkin Counties.

Other highlights included: a Mute Swan nest with one young fledged in Duluth, a first nesting record for the state (whether this is good news or bad I leave up to the reader to decide); the Bald Eagle nest on the shores of Lac Qui Parle Lake and the Peregrine nest found by rock climbers at Palisade Head on the North Shore of Lake Superior; a few Rough-legged Hawks apparently summering for reasons unknown at Rice Lake NWR and the Sax-Zim bog; the return of Northern Bobwhites to Blue Mounds in the southwestern corner of the state; the eight nesting pairs of the endangered Piping Plover clinging to life on Pine-Curry Islands (but once again the species was absent from Duluth); the Northern Hawk-Owl family and possible Three-toed Woodpecker nesting pair, both in Lake County and both seen during the American Birding Association convention; a fifth state record Sage Thrasher in Minneapolis; a singing Blue Grosbeak way out of range up at Felton Prairie (but did it wander north from Rock County or east from the Missouri River valley of northern South Dakota?); and those House Finches which continued to solidify their presence in the state, especially in the Twin Cities where it seems likely undetected nesting has already occurred. Also note the possible sighting of Clark's Grebe (this and all records of this species are currently being

reviewed); and the well-documented record of Western Sandpiper. (The status and identification of this "regular" species is also under current review.)

The format for the species accounts is the same as the previous three summer reports, which were so ably written by Steve Wilson and Mary Shedd; Finally, thanks is due Parker Backstrom who compiled most of the nest and brood cards.

Common Loon

Nested in *Norman* (AB), Becker, Todd, Crow Wing, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Wright; probable nesting in Washington. Seen in 27 other counties as far south as Douglas in the west and Scott in the east; also observed in Fillmore (6/4, RJ, AP).

Pied-billed Grebe

Nested in Hubbard, Aitkin, *Pine* (AB), Anoka, Big Stone, Stevens; probable nesting in Pennington, Cottonwood. Seen in 28 other counties throughout the state except the northeast.

Red-necked Grebe

Nested in Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Becker, Hubbard, Crow Wing, Todd, Pope, Anoka. Also seen in Kittson, Roseau, Beltrami, Hennepin.

Eared Grebe

Nested in Nicollet (328 nests, JB), Big Stone (120, JB), Marshall (583, JB), Lac Qui Parle (15, JB), Stevens. Also seen in Roseau, Wilkin, Clay, Hubbard, Lake of the Woods.

Clark's Grebe

Single bird reported at Rushfeldt Lake, Clay Co. (6/26, LCF); this and all records of this species are currently being reevaluated.

Western Grebe

Nested in Marshall, Todd, Pope, Nicollet. Also seen in Stevens, Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, Wright.

American White Pelican

No nesting reports; seen in 18 counties (primarily north central, northwest, west central) as far east as St. Louis (two at Duluth on 7/20, DK) and south to Jackson and Freeborn.

Double-crested Cormorant

Breeding reported in Pope and Swift. Seen in 29 other counties as far northeast as a line from Lake of the Woods to Washington, and as far southwest as Lac Qui Parle, Cottonwood, Freeborn. No reports from southeast.

American Bittern

Relatively few reports; seen in 12 counties in the north plus Anoka, Washington, Waseca (AB).

Least Bittern

Seen in Marshall, Red Lake, Anoka, Redwood, Hennepin, Dakota. Relatively few sightings, similar to last year.

Great Blue Heron

Observed in 68 counties throughout the state; nesting records from Hubbard, Morrison, Pope. Fall migrants seen at Duluth on 7/30 (KE).

Great Egret

Only nesting reported in Pope; seen in 29 other counties as far north as a diagonal from Marshall to Chisago, and south to Faribault; no reports from the southwest.

Snowy Egret

Seen at Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (7/13-14, AB, TT); Eden Prairie, Hennepin Co. (6/8, SC, ES); four birds at Pelican L., Grant Co. (7/23, KE).

Little Blue Heron

Pair observed at Pig's Eye Island, Ramsey Co., but no nest found (6/8, second summer report in past six years).

Cattle Egret

Seen along Co. Rd. 15, Washington Co. (6/8-20, RH) and L. Christina, Ottertail Co. (7/24, KE).

Green-backed Heron

Probable nesting in Mower. Seen in 40 other counties throughout most of the state except northeast; scarce in southwest. More reports north than usual.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nested in Marshall, Pope, Nicollet. Seen in 10 other southern counties with most re-

ports from east central region; plus Grant and *St. Louis* (Duluth, m.ob.).

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Seen in *Mower* (AP), *Dakota* (Schmidt L., m.ob.), *Hennepin* (7/8, DB).

TUNDRA SWAN

One adult photographed at Agassiz NWR, *Marshall* Co. (6/24, JM).

MUTE SWAN

Two adults nested in Duluth, *St. Louis*, producing one young; this represents the first state nesting record (KE).

SNOW GOOSE

Five at Salt L., *Lac Qui Parle* Co. (6/18, BL).

Canada Goose

Increase continues; nested in 15 counties including *Kittson* (AB), *Big Stone* (BH_a), *Rock* (GS). Seen in an additional 39 counties statewide. Summering flock at Isabella, *Lake* Co. (First report in county of summering flock away from L. Superior, SW/MS).

Wood Duck

Nested in 25 counties including *Norman* (AB), *Aitkin* (WN), *Traverse* (BH_a), *Stevens* (EL). Seen in 40 other counties statewide. Apparent increase continues.

Green-winged Teal

Seen in *Kittson*, *Roseau*, *Marshall*, *Norman*, *Wilkin*, *St. Louis*, *Aitkin*, *Todd*, *Morrison*, *Kanabec*, *Isanti*, *Hennepin*, *Dakota*.

American Black Duck

Seen in *Lake*, *Marshall*, *Kittson*, *Roseau*, *Norman*, *Todd*, *St. Louis*, *Cook*, *Sherburne*. More sightings than previous few years, but no nesting reports.

Mallard

Nested in 22 counties including *Norman* (MS), *Lincoln* (JSc), *Waseca* (GS). Seen in 40 other counties statewide.

Northern Pintail

Seen in *Kittson*, *Roseau*, *Marshall*, *Aitkin*, *Grant*, *Stevens*, *Big Stone*, *Stearns*, *Wright*, *Pipestone*, *Murray*, *Jackson*.

Blue-winged Teal

Nested in 11 counties including *Todd* (PH), *Traverse* (BH_a), *Blue Earth* (AB) and seen in 38 other counties statewide.

Northern Shoveler

Breeding recorded in *Kittson* (AB), *Aitkin*. Also seen in *Roseau*, *Marshall*, *Norman*, *Becker*, *Wilkin*, *St. Louis*, *Hennepin*, *Freeborn*.

Gadwall

No nesting reports; seen in *Marshall*, *Big Stone*, *Kittson*, *Roseau*, *Wright*, *Pope*, *Duluth*.

American Wigeon

Nested in *St. Louis*. Seen in ten other northern counties, plus *Wright* (6/4, ES), *Anoka* (7/9, SC).

Canvasback

Nested in *Kittson*, *Roseau*. Also seen in *Marshall*, *Norman*, *Clay*, *Becker*, *Wilkin*, *Wadena*, *Grant*, *Stevens*, *Hennepin*.

Redhead

Nested in *Kittson* (AB). Also seen in *Roseau*, *Marshall*, *Clay*, *Becker*, *Wilkin*, *Big Stone*, *Stevens*, *Nicollet*.

Ring-necked Duck

Breeding recorded in *Cook*, *Anoka*. Seen in 12 other northern counties plus *Sherburne*, *Wahtonwan*.

GREATER SCAUP

Several reports: a pair at *Roseau* sewage ponds (6/27, AB); possibly same pair at *Karstad* Sewage ponds, *Kittson* (6/29, AB); one bird reported in *Scott* (6/16, TT).

Lesser Scaup

Seen in *Kittson*, *Roseau*, *Marshall*, *Norman*, *Clay*, *Hubbard*, *Scott*, *Martin*.

Common Goldeneye

Nested in *Roseau*, *St. Louis*, *Lake*, *Cook*. Also seen in *Lake of the Woods*, *Beltrami*, *Clearwater*, *Becker*, *Hubbard*, *Cass*.

Bufflehead

Nested at *Lake Bemidji* S.P., *Beltrami* Co. (6/24, two half-grown young, GB). Male present throughout period at *French Lake*, *Hen-*

nepin (OJ) and female at same site (7/9, 26, OJ, SC); two birds seen in **Wright** (7/26, ES); also observed at Agassiz NWR (6/28, KH).

Hooded Merganser

Nested in Roseau, Pennington, Lake, *Norman* (AB), *Swift* (JSc). Seen in 8 other northern counties plus Isanti and Wright.

Common Merganser

Nested in St. Louis, Lake. Also seen in Cook, Hubbard, *Scott* (6/8, DC).

Red-breasted Merganser

Nested in Cook; also seen in Lake.

Ruddy Duck

Nested in *Wilkin* (AB). Seen in 11 other western counties plus Anoka.

Turkey Vulture

More reports than recent years, although no nesting records. Seen in 30 counties east of a diagonal through Marshall, Becker, Todd, Scott, Steele; plus Le Sueur, Nicollet, Brown.

Osprey

Nested in Hubbard, Aitkin. Seen in 12 other northern counties including Kittson (L. Bronson, TR), plus Washington.

Bald Eagle

First known nesting in this century in the southwest at *Lac Qui Parle* W.M.A. (KB); nesting also in Beltrami, *Benton* (NH*i*), *Sherburne*. Seen in 15 other counties in range southwest to Becker, Stearns, Ramsey; plus a young bird in Chippewa.

Northern Harrier

More reports than in recent years; seen in 48 counties throughout the state, including 12 counties in southeast and south central; early migrant seen at Duluth on 7/30 (KE).

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Seen in seven northern counties including Kittson; plus Hennepin, Washington, Wabasha, Houston, *Waseca* (WS).

Cooper's Hawk

Nested in Kandiyohi, Anoka; probable nesting at Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott. Also seen in eight northwest and north central

counties plus Chisago, Ramsey, Le Sueur, Wabasha.

Northern Goshawk

Seen in Kittson (TR), Marshall, Aitkin, Hubbard.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Nested in Washington; also seen in Anoka, Aitkin, *Roseau* (AB).

Broad-winged Hawk

Nested in Crow Wing, Cook. Seen in 17 other counties west to Marshall and Stearns, and south to Scott and Dakota.

Swainson's Hawk

Nested in Mower, *Fillmore* (NAO). Also seen in Ottertail, Traverse, Murray, Rock, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Washington, Dodge.

Red-tailed Hawk

Nested in Stearns, Carver. Seen in 55 other counties statewide.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK

Unusual number of summer records: Agassiz NWR (6/24, JM), Rice Lake NWR, Aitkin Co. (6/23, KE), Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis Co. (6/28, two birds, KE).

American Kestrel

Nested in Lake, *Aitkin* (WN), Washington, *Le Sueur* (FKS), Rice. Seen in 60 other counties throughout the state.

Merlin

Probable nesting in Cook; also seen in Lake, St. Louis.

Peregrine Falcon

Reintroductions are succeeding; nested in *Hennepin* (Minneapolis), and at Palisade Head, *Lake* Co. (two young successfully fledged, m.ob.). Also seen regularly at NSP King Plant, Washington Co. (*The Loon* 60:138).

Gray Partridge

Seen in 26 counties in western and southern regions plus Wadena, Meeker, Sibley.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Nested in *Crow Wing* (JS/MN), Todd, Pope, Le Sueur, Steele, *Dodge* (AB); proba-



Rough-legged Hawk, 24 June 1988, Agassiz NWR, Marshall County. Photo by Jim Mattsson.

ble nesting in Freeborn. Seen in 35 other counties north to Clay, Hubbard, Aitkin.

Spruce Grouse

Seen in Lake of the Woods, Lake, Cook.

Ruffed Grouse

Nested in Clearwater, Becker, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Washington, *Fillmore* (NAO); probable nesting in Roseau, Todd. Seen in 11 other counties throughout usual range.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Seen only in Clay.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Nested in Aitkin; also seen in Kittson, Marshall, Lake of the Woods, Becker, Carlton.

Wild Turkey

Probable nesting in Fillmore; also seen in Houston.

Northern Bobwhite

Seen at Blue Mounds S.P., Rock Co. (6/8, m.ob.); first report of presumably wild bird here in several years.

Yellow Rail

Seen at McGregor marsh, Aitkin Co. (6/9,

m.ob.) and Waubun marsh, Becker Co. (KE); numbers down.

Virginia Rail

Fewer reports than in recent years. Nested in Anoka, Hennepin; also seen in Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Clay, Todd, Stearns, Mille Lacs, Washington, Steele.

Sora

Probable nesting in Red Lake. Seen in 22 other counties in all regions except southeast and southwest.

Common Moorhen

Nesting in Todd (L. Osakis, two adults with five young on 7/24, KE). Seen also at Agassiz NWR, **Marshall Co.** (6/1, JM), Anoka, Hennepin, Steele.

American Coot

Nested in *Kittson* (AB), Todd, Swift, *Cottonwood* (AB); probable nesting in Pennington. Seen in 22 other counties in all regions except northeast.

Sandhill Crane

Seen in Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Beltrami, Cass, Mille Lacs, Sherburne, Anoka.

Black-bellied Plover

Migrants: 6/4 Clay, 7/16 Freeborn (NH).

Lesser Golden-Plover

Migrants: 6/2 Nobles, 6/22 Stevens, 6/22 Duluth.

Semipalmated Plover

Seen in 13 counties. Early migrants: North, 7/23 Norman and Hubbard; South, 7/10 Wahtonwan, 7/11 Fillmore, 7/13 Mower.

Piping Plover

Eight pairs on Pine/Curry Island, Lake of the Woods; absent from Duluth for third consecutive year.

Killdeer

More reports than in recent years; nested in 11 counties and seen in 60 other counties throughout the state.

American Avocet

Nested in *Todd* (Browerville). Also seen in Marshall, Dakota (7/2 Black Dog L., seven birds, TT).

Ruddy Turnstone

Migrants 6/8 Lake of the Woods, 7/30 Duluth.

Sanderling

Fall migrants: 7/17 Faribault, 7/24 Clay, 7/31 Duluth and Wilkin and Traverse.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Seen in 14 counties in all regions except north central and northeast. Late migrants: South, 6/11 Winona; North, 6/1 Todd. Early migrants: North, 7/23 Norman; South, 7/4 Dakota (TT), 7/11 Fillmore.

WESTERN SANDPIPER

One carefully documented in Hennepin (7/28, Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, SC).

Least Sandpiper

Seen in 22 counties throughout state. Early migrants: North, 6/29 Kittson, 7/3 Duluth; South, 7/1 Dakota, 7/2 Sherburne and Grant.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Late migrants: South, 6/11 Winona, 6/13 Lac Qui Parle; North, 6/8 Lake of the Woods, 6/15 Duluth. Early migrants: North, 7/31 Wilkin. Also seen in Cook and Todd.

Baird's Sandpiper

Late migrants: 6/11 Winona. Early migrants: 7/30 Hubbard and Duluth and Faribault.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Seen in 28 counties throughout the state except northeast and most of north central. Late migrants: South, 6/7 Winona, 6/13 Lac Qui Parle (BHa); North, 6/1 Todd. Early migrants: North, 6/27 Roseau (AB); South, 7/4 Dakota, 7/10 Cottonwood and Watonwan.

Greater Yellowlegs

Seen in 24 counties throughout state except northeast. Early migrants: North, 7/9 Cass, 7/23 Norman; South, 7/10 Watonwan and Cottonwood and Carver, 7/11 Fillmore and Dakota.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Seen in 31 counties throughout state, although few reports from northeast and north central. Except for 6/16 Rock (TT) all sightings assumed to be fall migrants: early North 6/27 Roseau, 6/28 Marshall; early South 6/25 Cottonwood, Jackson, Watonwan, Faribault, Nicollet.

Solitary Sandpiper

Seen in 20 counties throughout state; possible summer bird 6/19 Cook (WP). Early migrants: North, 7/1 Norman, 7/2, Aitkin; South, 6/25 Dakota (TT), 6/26 Brown (JS).

Willet

Only reports: 6/8 Lake of the Woods, 7/31 Wilkin, 7/11-13 Fillmore (AP).

Spotted Sandpiper

Nested in *Norman* (AB), Cook, *Murray* (NMD). Seen in 40 other counties throughout state; more reports than in recent years.

Upland Sandpiper

Nested in Big Stone, Lac Qui Parle. Seen in 26 other counties throughout state although scarce in northeast and north central.

Whimbrel

Fifteen birds seen in Cook (6/6, WP), late migrants.

Marbled Godwit

More reports than in recent years; seen in eight counties in northwest and west central,

plus Lake of the Woods, Clearwater, Todd, Stearns, **McLeod** (6/25, RH), **Hennepin** (7/30, SC).

Stilt Sandpiper

Seen in 12 counties as far northeast as Wadena and Duluth. Early migrants: North, 7/27 Grant; South, 7/13 Fillmore, 7/17 Waseca, 7/24 Hennepin.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

Only report from Wilkin (7/31, AB).

Short-billed Dowitcher

Seen in 12 counties in west, central, and south plus Duluth. Early migrants: North, 6/29 Kittson (AB), South 7/13 Mower and Fillmore, 7/16 Chisago.

Common Snipe

Nested in *Wilkin* (LP); seen in 16 other counties as far south as Stearns, Wright, Washington, Freeborn, Olmsted.

American Woodcock

Nested in Lake; probable nesting in Steele. Seen in eight other northern counties plus Anoka, Le Sueur, Fillmore, Houston.

Wilson's Phalarope

Many more reports than usual; nested in Marshall, *Lake of the Woods* (KH), *Wilkin* (JMo); probable nesting in Lac Qui Parle. Seen in six other northwest and west central counties plus Todd, Stearns, Rock, Cook (6/6, WP), Duluth (7/30-31, KE), Pine, Sherburne, Wright, Hennepin, Carver, Winona.

Red-necked Phalarope

Only report: two birds in Faribault (7/28, NH).

Franklin's Gull

One thousand + nests at Thief Lake W.M.A., Marshall Co. (JB). Seen in nine other western counties plus Lake of the Woods, Crow Wing, Todd, Goodhue (7/25, BL).

Bonaparte's Gull

Mid-summer records from Roseau, Cass and Crow Wing; late July migrants in Beltrami, Crow Wing, Aitkin, Duluth, Goodhue.

Ring-billed Gull

Fewer reports than last year. Nested in

Duluth; seen in 31 other counties in all regions except southwest and southeast.

Herring Gull

Nested in Duluth, Cook. Also seen in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Lake, Hubbard, Todd, Stearns, Swift.

Caspian Tern

Seen in early June in Cook, Ramsey; also Hubbard and Lake (6/20).

Common Tern

No nesting reported. Seen in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Lake of the Woods (scarce), Becker, Otter Tail, Hubbard, Cass, Aitkin, Mille Lacs.

Forster's Tern

Nested in Marshall (500 adults, JB), Big Stone (seven adults, JB), Nicollet (125 nests, JB). Seen in 20 other counties as far east as Lake of the Woods, Hubbard, Anoka, Dakota, Freeborn.

Black Tern

Nested in Anoka, Nicollet. Seen in 50 counties as far northeast as Lake of the Woods, Aitkin, Pine; also seen in St. Louis (7/3, Ely, SW/MS).

Rock Dove

Nested in *Pennington* (KSS), *Rice* (FKS). Seen in 46 other counties statewide.

Mourning Dove

Nested in *Pennington*, *Stevens* (EL), *Todd* (PH), Stearns, Hennepin, Cottonwood, Brown, Le Sueur, Rice, Mower; probable nesting in Traverse. Seen in 52 other counties statewide, including Cook.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Numbers in north higher than in recent years, due to abundance of tent caterpillars. Nested in Lake, *Big Stone* (BH), *Rice*; probable nesting in Mower. Seen in 42 other counties statewide.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Nested in *Rice* (FKS). Seen in 21 other counties; no reports from northeast or east central but numerous in southern regions. More reports than in recent years.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Nested in *Freeborn* (*The Loon* 60:128); probable nesting in Cottonwood. Also seen in Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Dodge.

Great Horned Owl

Nested in Marshall, Pennington, Lake; probable nesting in Carver. Seen in 21 other counties statewide.

NORTHERN HAWK-OWL

Nested in *Lake*: adults and three short-tailed fledglings observed along Whyte Road from 6/26 to 7/2 by m.ob.

Burrowing Owl

Probable nesting in Traverse, Pipestone, Yellow Medicine, Rock (JSc); more reports than usual.

Barred Owl

Nested in Brown; probable nesting in Aitkin. Seen in 17 other counties as far southwest as a diagonal through Marshall, Sherburne, Mower; also seen in Le Sueur.

Great Gray Owl

Probable nesting in Aitkin (7/24, Co. Rd. 18, WN). Also seen in St. Louis (Sax-Zim bog, two birds, m.ob.), Lake (6/3-4, SW/MS).

Long-eared Owl

Nested in *Kandiyohi* (JHa); also seen in Aitkin.

Short-eared Owl

Seen in Lake of the Woods, Pennington, Aitkin (at least 12 individuals, WN).

BOREAL OWL

Extensive field census in 1988: singing males identified at 37 locations in Cook and southeastern Lake, with two nesting records in Cook (*The Loon* 60:99-104). Also nested in *St. Louis* (six miles S. of Hoyt Lakes, nest apparently failed, SW/MS, AE) and *Lake* (12 miles SW of Isabella, three young fledged, SW/MS). An additional 56 singing males in Lake and St. Louis surveyed by SW *et al.*

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Only reports: nested in *Hennepin* (*The Loon* 60:132) and Lake.

Common Nighthawk

Nested in *Big Stone* (BH), Rice. Seen in 32 other counties statewide.

Whip-poor-will

Nested in Anoka (*The Loon* 60:133-134). Also seen in Marshall, Pennington, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Fillmore, Houston.

Chimney Swift

Nested in Stearns; seen in 53 other counties statewide.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Nested in Crow Wing; probable nesting in Olmsted. Seen in 40 other counties statewide although scarce in west central.

Belted Kingfisher

Probable nesting in Pipestone; seen in 54 other counties statewide.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Nested in Stearns, Anoka, Brown, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Cottonwood, Freeborn, Fillmore. Seen in 48 other counties statewide although scarce in northeast.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Probable nesting in Anoka, Fillmore. Seen in 17 other counties east of Brown and south of Meeker and Chisago; also seen in Aitkin.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Nested in Lake, Washington, Brown, *Fillmore* (NAO); probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in 34 other counties statewide although scarce in central and west central regions and only *Murray* (NMD) in southwest.

Downy Woodpecker

Nested in Lake, Cook, Anoka, Brown, Le Sueur, Wabasha; probable nesting in Clay, Crow Wing, Washington, Cottonwood, Fillmore. Seen in 45 other counties statewide.

Hairy Woodpecker

Nested in St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Stearns, Anoka, Washington, Le Sueur, Fillmore; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Wabasha. Seen in 39 other counties statewide.

THREE-TOED WOODPECKER

Seen in Lake (Whyte Rd., two adults re-

ported at apparent nest hole in late June, *vide* KE).

Black-backed Woodpecker

Nested in Itasca, Cook. Also seen in St. Louis, Lake, Clearwater.

Northern Flicker

Nested in Crow Wing, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, *Todd* (PH), Stearns, Washington, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Brown, Fillmore. Seen in 57 other counties statewide.

Pileated Woodpecker

Nested in Clearwater, St. Louis; probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in 34 other counties west to Marshall, Clay, Todd, Wright, Le Sueur, Freeborn; also seen in Brown and Lac Qui Parle.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Late migrants: 6/1 Brown, 6/4 Rice. Also seen in eight counties in northern regions plus Wilkin, Douglas.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Nested in Brown; seen in 50 other counties statewide although scarce in southwest.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Seen in Beltrami, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; late migrant 6/13 Goodhue (AP).

Acadian Flycatcher

Possible singing male in Brown (6/23-7/3, Flandrau S.P., JS). Seen in Scott (Murphy-Hanrehan Park, m.ob.) and Goodhue (7/25, Frontenac S.P., BL).

Alder Flycatcher

Late migrants: 6/16 Rock (TT), 6/14 Dakota (TT). Also seen in 23 counties as far south as Becker in the west and Stearns and Hennepin in the east.

Willow Flycatcher

Seen in 21 counties within range plus Aitkin (6/23-7/16, Rice Lake NWR, KE *et al.*).

Least Flycatcher

Nested in Becker, Hubbard, Crow Wing, St. Louis. Seen in 35 other counties in all regions except southwest.

Eastern Phoebe

Nested in 15 counties including *Swift*

(JSc), *Le Sueur* (FKS), *Fillmore* (NAO). Seen in 34 other counties statewide although scarce in southwest.

SAY'S PHOEBE

An individual still at Blue Mounds S.P., Rock (6/6-11, m.ob.). (*The Loon* 60:129).

Great Crested Flycatcher

Nested in *Brown* (JS), Wabasha. Seen in 58 other counties statewide.

Western Kingbird

Nested in Traverse, Pipestone, Hennepin, Anoka. Seen in 13 other western counties plus Hubbard, Wright, Washington, Dakota.

Eastern Kingbird

Nested in 12 counties including *Fillmore* (AP); probable nesting in Freeborn. Seen in 52 other counties statewide.

Horned Lark

Numbers apparently increasing; seen in 51 counties as far northeast as Aitkin, Hubbard, Clearwater, Roseau.

Purple Martin

Nested in Crow Wing, Todd (PH), Cottonwood, Le Sueur, *Freeborn* (NH). Seen in 52 other counties statewide but only St. Louis in northeast.

Tree Swallow

More reports than in recent years. Nested in 19 counties including *Todd* (PH), *Nobles* (NMD). Seen in 44 other counties statewide.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Nested in *Todd* (PH), Stearns, Rice, Goodhue (AP); probable nesting in Traverse. Seen in 39 other counties statewide except northeast and north central.

Bank Swallow

Nested in Benton, Brown, Rice; probable nesting in Traverse, Goodhue. Seen in 45 other counties statewide although scarce in northeast.

Cliff Swallow

Nested in Cook, Big Stone, Swift, Lac Qui Parle, *Yellow Medicine* (JSc), *Todd* (PH), *Morrison* (NH), Anoka; probable nesting in Traverse. Seen in 49 other counties statewide.

Barn Swallow

Nested in eight counties south of Crow Wing; seen in 57 other counties statewide.

Gray Jay

Probable nesting in Aitkin, Lake, Cook. Also seen in Roseau, Marshall, Koochiching, Hubbard, Cass, St. Louis.

Blue Jay

Nested in nine counties including *Todd* (PH), *Fillmore* (NAO); probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in 55 other counties statewide.

Black-billed Magpie

Nested in Pennington, *Aitkin* (*The Loon* 60:135-136). Also seen in Kittson, Marshall, Beltrami, Norman.

American Crow

Nested in Pennington, Clay, Hennepin. Seen in 53 other counties statewide.

Common Raven

Nested in Lake, Cook; probable nesting in Kittson. Seen in 11 other counties northeast of diagonal from Marshall to **Chisago** (6/14, DB).

Black-capped Chickadee

More reports than in recent years. Nested in 15 counties south of Cass including *Todd* (PH), *Freeborn* (NH), *Fillmore* (NAO); probable nesting in Aitkin, Stevens. Seen in 43 other counties statewide.

Boreal Chickadee

Only reports from *Hubbard* (7/25, HJF), *Aitkin* (6/29-7/17, WN), Lake, Cook.

Tufted Titmouse

Only report from Olmsted; none seen in Houston ("unusual" according to EMF).

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Nested in Crow Wing, St. Louis. Seen in ten other northern counties plus Anoka, Washington, Dakota, **Freeborn** (NHo).

White-breasted Nuthatch

Nested in Crow Wing, Stearns, Anoka, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Clearwater. Seen in 50 other counties statewide although scarce in southwest.

Brown Creeper

Nested in *Brown* (JS). Also seen in Hubbard, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Chisago, Hennepin, **Nicollet** (7/3, JS).

House Wren

Nested in 14 counties and seen in 43 other counties statewide.

Winter Wren

Only reports (fewer than in recent years): Itasca, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Sedge Wren

Seen in 46 counties statewide.

Marsh Wren

Seen in 35 counties in all regions except northeast; scarce in southwest.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Probable nesting in Roseau; also seen in Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Only reports: St. Louis, Lake, Cook; record early migrant 7/27 Stevens (EL).

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Nested in Brown, Anoka, Mower; probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in 10 other counties in east central and southeast regions plus Steele, Rice, Scott, Stearns, **Wadena** (7/30, RJ).

Eastern Bluebird

Many observers reported increasing numbers. Nested in 18 counties and seen in 36 others statewide but only Pope in west central.

Veery

Seen in 32 counties as far south as a diagonal through Clay, Douglas, Rice; no reports from southeast.

Swainson's Thrush

Only records: nested in Cook; also seen in **Marshall** (AB), Lake; early migrant 7/26 Hennepin (ES).

Hermit Thrush

Nested in Lake; seen in seven other north central and northeastern counties plus Roseau, Becker (7/18, BK — probable early migrant).

Wood Thrush

Nested in Brown; seen in 19 other counties in southeast, south central, and east central regions north to Chisago; also seen in Wright, Stearns, Aitkin, Cass, Becker, Clay (6/8-21, LCF).

American Robin

Nested in 21 counties including Todd (PH), Steele (GS), Freeborn (NHo, GS), Fillmore (NAO). Seen in 39 other counties statewide.

Gray Catbird

Nested in eight counties including Wabasha (DWM); probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in 54 other counties statewide.

Northern Mockingbird

Only report: one bird along Lake Superior in Cook (6/3, KMH).

Brown Thrasher

Nested in eight counties including Freeborn (NH); probable nesting in Cottonwood. Seen in 45 other counties statewide.

SAGE THRASHER

Fifth state record; 6/17 Hennepin (*The Loon* 60:127).

SPRAGUE'S PIPIT

Nested (first state nesting record since 1972) in Polk (*The Loon* 60:104-108); also a singing male seen in Aitkin (6/26, *The Loon* 60:187).

Cedar Waxwing

More reports than in recent years. Nested in Cook, Becker (BK), Todd (PH), Crow Wing, Le Sueur; probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in 51 other counties statewide although sparse in southwest and west central.

Loggerhead Shrike

Nested in Clay, Morrison, Lac Qui Parle; probable nesting in Polk, Murray. Also seen in Warroad, Roseau Co. (7/31, RP), Washington, Watonwan, Le Sueur, Goodhue.

European Starling

Nested in St. Louis, Stevens (EL), Todd (PH), Stearns, Anoka. Seen in 43 other counties statewide.

Bell's Vireo

Only records: seen in Fillmore, Dakota, Rock (6/16, Blue Mounds S.P., TT).

Solitary Vireo

Seen in Roseau, Hubbard, Cass, Crow Wing, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; late migrant 6/9 Anoka (DZ).

Yellow-throated Vireo

Nested in Crow Wing, Anoka. Seen in 25 other counties within range as far north as Marshall, Aitkin, Duluth; also seen in Lake (7/29, Isabella, m.ob.).

Warbling Vireo

Nested in Nobles, Le Sueur, Fillmore; probable nesting in Clay. Seen in 44 other counties in all regions except northeast.

Philadelphia Vireo

Only reports: Lake, Cook; early migrant 7/31 Olmsted (BSE).

Red-eyed Vireo

Nested in Becker, Crow Wing, St. Louis. Seen in 49 other counties in all regions except southwest.

Blue-winged Warbler

Nested in Fillmore (NAO); also seen in Anoka, Dakota, Rice, Wabasha, Olmsted, Houston.

Golden-winged Warbler

Seen in nine counties within range north to Red Lake, Clearwater, Itasca and south to Anoka, Washington; also seen in Lake (6/13-23, SW/MS). Early migrant 7/23 Olmsted.

Tennessee Warbler

Seen in Hubbard, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. Early migrants: North, 7/23 Red Lake; South 7/16 Hennepin (TT), 7/19 Washington (DS).

Nashville Warbler

Seen in 12 counties in northern regions plus Benton, Chisago, Anoka. Early migrant 7/11 Murray (NMD).

Northern Parula

Seen in Hubbard, Koochiching, St. Louis, Lake, Cook. Late migrant 6/5 Ramsey (RH). Extremely early migrant 7/19 Hennepin (TT).

Yellow Warbler

Nested in 11 counties; seen in 42 other counties statewide but only Rock in southwest and St. Louis in northeast.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Nested in St. Louis; seen in 14 other northern counties plus Isanti, Anoka, Hennepin, Scott. Early migrant 7/11 Murray.

Magnolia Warbler

Only reports: St. Louis, Lake, Cook; late migrant 6/1 Hennepin.

Cape May Warbler

Probable nesting in Cook; also seen in Itasca, Lake. Early migrants 7/22 Dakota (TT), 7/25 Hennepin (TT), 7/28 Olmsted (BSE).

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Seen in Lake, Cook; late migrant 6/5 Carver (PS); early migrant 7/28 Olmsted (BSE).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Seen in nine counties in northeast and north central plus Roseau; early migrant 7/30 Hennepin (SC).

Black-throated Green Warbler

Only reports from Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook; fewer reports than in recent years.

Blackburnian Warbler

Nested in St. Louis, Lake; also seen in Roseau, Wadena, Cass, Cook; early migrants 7/21 Hennepin (TT), 7/22 Dakota (TT).

Pine Warbler

Seen within range in Roseau, Cass, Aitkin, Todd, Pine, Benton, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota; plus St. Louis (6/27, Tower, SW/MS), Lake (SW/MS).

Palm Warbler

Seen in Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake (6/23, Sand L. peatland, SW/MS).

Bay-breasted Warbler

Only reports from Lake and Cook.

Cerulean Warbler

Relatively few reports: nested in Scott; also seen in Stearns, Houston.

Black-and-white Warbler

Probable nesting in Aitkin. Seen in 15 other counties within range west to Roseau, Red Lake, Wadena, and south to Hennepin. Early migrant 7/28 Olmsted.

American Redstart

A few more reports than in recent years; nested in Becker, Aitkin (WN), Cook, Hennepin, Carver, Brown. Seen in 37 other counties statewide but not in southwest and only Douglas in west central.

Prothonotary Warbler

Nested in Brown; probable nesting in Chisago. Also seen in Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, Nicollet (6/12-26, JS).

Ovenbird

Nested in Anoka; seen in 30 other counties throughout central and eastern regions plus Roseau, Marshall, Pope in the west.

Northern Waterthrush

Only reports from Beltrami, St. Louis, Lake, Cook, Wadena (7/30, RJ — probable early migrant).

Louisiana Waterthrush

Nested in Washington (BFa); only other report from Fillmore.

KENTUCKY WARBLER

One heard in Rice (6/4, TT).

Connecticut Warbler

Relatively few reports: seen in Roseau, Cass, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake; early migrant 7/26 Hennepin (DB).

Mourning Warbler

Probable nesting in St. Louis. Seen in 14 other counties within range west to Marshall and south to Washington, plus Dakota (6/25, TT). Late migrants 6/1-3 Hennepin, 6/8 Big Stone (BHa); early migrant 7/30 Hennepin (SC).

Common Yellowthroat

Nested in Anoka; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Aitkin, St. Louis, Brown. Seen in 61 other counties statewide.

Hooded Warbler

Only reports: Scott (6/4, DBo), Dakota (6/15-7/2, TT).

Wilson's Warbler

Only report from Lake.

Canada Warbler

Fewer reports than in recent years; seen in St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

Yellow-breasted Chat

A female in breeding condition banded in Ramsey (early July, Maplewood, RC).

Scarlet Tanager

More reports than usual; seen in 37 counties throughout range west to Clay, Pope, Brown, Wahtonwan.

Northern Cardinal

Nested in Sherburne, Ramsey, Brown, Fillmore (NAO); probable nesting in Freeborn. Seen in 24 other counties north to Pine and west to Cottonwood, Jackson; plus Clay (7/17, two in Moorhead, *vide* LCF), Becker (6/21, two birds, BK).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Nested in St. Louis, Todd (PH), Freeborn (NH); probable nesting in Hubbard, Crow Wing, Fillmore. Seen in 49 other counties statewide although scarce in southwest and west central.

Blue Grosbeak

Nested in Murray; seen at Felton Prairie, Clay (*The Loon* 60:129-130); also seen in Rock, Pipestone, Nobles.

Indigo Bunting

Probable nesting in St. Louis. Seen in 57 other counties statewide although reports concentrated along broad diagonal from southeast to northwest.

Dickcissel

Possibly the largest invasion ever recorded in the state (*The Loon* 60:143-144). No fewer than 140 reports from 73 counties as far north as Kittson, Roseau, and St. Louis, and including all counties in the northwest, south central, and southeast regions. Nested in Aitkin (WN), well north of usual range; despite abundance, no other nesting records.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Nested in Crow Wing (JS/MN), Brown (JS); probable nesting in Fillmore. Seen in

11 other counties along a diagonal from Beltrami to Houston, plus Becker, St. Louis.

Chipping Sparrow

Nested in nine counties including Todd (PH); probable nesting in Clearwater, Stevens, Fillmore. Seen in 50 other counties statewide.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Fewer reports than in previous two years. Nested in Morrison; probable nesting in Crow Wing. Seen in 32 other counties as far south as Big Stone, Meeker, Dakota; plus Steele.

Field Sparrow

Nested in Anoka, Brown. Seen in 25 other counties as far north as Clay, Wadena, Crow Wing.

Vesper Sparrow

Seen in 52 counties as far northeast as Roseau, Hubbard, Aitkin; no reports from northeast.

Lark Sparrow

Nested in Anoka, Yellow Medicine (JSc). Also seen in Aitkin (6/23, McGregor, *vide* KE), Clay, Sherburne, Le Sueur.

Lark Bunting

Adult male seen in Clay (6/20, LCF; 7/2, BHa); up to three birds in Big Stone (6/14-21, copulation observed, BHa); two males in Aitkin (6/20-29, *The Loon* 60:137).

Savannah Sparrow

Seen in 52 counties statewide.

BAIRD'S SPARROW

Two singing males at Felton Prairie, Clay (6/24, *The Loon* 60:132-133).

Grasshopper Sparrow

Unusually abundant; many more reports than in recent years. Nested in Aitkin (WN); probable nesting in Traverse. Seen in 50 other counties as far northeast as Roseau, Hubbard, Aitkin, Pine.

Henslow's Sparrow

Several reports: one heard singing at Big Stone NWR, Lac Qui Parle Co. (7/9, BL); seen in Hubbard (7/9, RJ); up to four birds in Aitkin (6/25-7/17, m.ob.); two birds at Afton S.P., Washington (6/12, TBB).

Le Conte's Sparrow

Probable nesting in Aitkin; seen in ten other counties including *Cook* (6/5, WP).

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Only reports: Marshall (Agassiz NWR), Aitkin (McGregor marsh).

Song Sparrow

Nested in St. Louis, Anoka; probable nesting in Brown. Seen in 62 other counties statewide.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Only reports from Lake and Cook.

Swamp Sparrow

More reports than in recent years. Nested in Aitkin, Anoka; seen in 51 other counties statewide.

White-throated Sparrow

Nested in Lake; seen in 12 other counties within range south to Becker, Todd, Aitkin.

Dark-eyed Junco

Nested in Cook; also seen in Marshall, Koochiching, Lake, Crow Wing.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Only reports: seen in Clay and Big Stone (6/14, BHa).

Bobolink

More reports than in recent years. Nested in Aitkin, *Lac Qui Parle* (BHa); seen in 61 other counties statewide.

Red-winged Blackbird

Nested in ten counties including *Wilkin* (AR) and seen in 57 other counties statewide.

Eastern Meadowlark

Nested in *Wabasha* (DWM). Seen in 24 other counties west to Todd, Stearns and north to Itasca, St. Louis; plus **Marshall** (JM).

Western Meadowlark

Nested in Norman; seen in 62 other counties statewide including St. Louis and **Cook** (6/6, WP) in northeast.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Nested in Todd, Washington; probable nesting in Mower. Seen in 52 other counties

statewide including **Cook** (6/6-19, WP, MS, KE).

Rusty Blackbird

Only report from Cook.

Brewer's Blackbird

Nested in Todd, Morrison, Benton. Seen in 33 other counties as far south as Big Stone, Nicollet, Le Sueur.

Common Grackle

Nested in eight counties including *Todd* (PH); probable nesting in St. Louis, Stevens. Seen in 53 other counties statewide.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Breeding reported in 12 counties including *Lac Qui Parle* (BHa), *Murray* (NMD), *Cottonwood* (BF); probable breeding in Todd, Freeborn, Fillmore. Seen in 46 other counties statewide.

Orchard Oriole

Fewer reports than last year. Nested in Big Stone, Brown, *Fillmore* (AP). Seen in 13 other counties as far north as Marshall in the west and Washington in the east, but no reports from the central region.

Northern Oriole

Nested in six counties including *Todd* (PH), *Fillmore* (AP); probable nesting in Aitkin, Stearns, Freeborn. Seen in 47 other counties in all regions except the northeast.

Purple Finch

Nested in *Lake of the Woods* (KSS), *Pennington* (KSS); probable nesting in Crow Wing, Washington. Seen in all north central and northeastern counties plus Roseau, Red Lake, Clay, Becker, Ottertail, Mille Lacs, **Steele** KV.

HOUSE FINCH

Several reports: one at a feeder in St. Cloud (7/11-12, *fide* NHi); seen in St. Paul (7/9, AB); a male at Albert Lea (6/15-7/31, **The Loon** 60:186).

Red Crossbill

Scarce; only report from Lake.

Pine Siskin

Nested in Stearns. Also seen in 13 northern

counties plus Hennepin, Washington, Dakota, Rice.

American Goldfinch

Nested in *Benton* (NHi), Brown; probable nesting in Crow Wing, Todd. Seen in 60 other counties statewide.

Evening Grosbeak

Seen in Lake of the Woods, Hubbard, Crow Wing, Aitkin, St. Louis, Lake, Cook.

House Sparrow

Nested in eight counties including *Lake of the Woods* (KSS), *Lake* (SW/MS), *Todd* (PH), *Lincoln* (JSc); probable nesting in Pennington. Seen in 50 other counties statewide.

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Louisiana Waterthrushes in Washington County: Results of the 1988 Minnesota County Biological Survey Work

Bonita C. Eliason and Bruce A. Fall

Introduction

The Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) was first reported in Minnesota in Fillmore County in the 1880's; it subsequently extended its range north and northwest along the Mississippi and its tributaries, so that by 1930 it occurred as far north as Anoka and southern Pine counties, and as far west as eastern Carver County (Roberts 1932). It was most numerous along the Mississippi River from Goodhue County south, and along the St. Croix north to Pine County, where "hundreds" were reported as early as 1908 (Roberts 1932). It now occupies much of the range described above, as well as the Minnesota River Valley in the east-central region, but is believed to have declined in numbers (Pfanmuller and Coffin 1988). This perceived decline resulted in the designation of this species as one of the targets of bird survey work associated with the Minnesota County Biological Survey in Washington County in 1988. In this paper we report the results of this survey work, during which 11 active territories of Louisiana Waterthrushes were discovered.

Methods

Potentially suitable habitat was located by conferring with John Almendinger of the Minnesota Natural Heritage Program, who has done extensive botanical surveys in Washington County. The general criterion used was the existence of a stream valley containing a permanent stream in wooded habitat. Ten potential sites were located in this manner. Survey work was done in the first three weeks of June, usually from 0530 to 1100, but occasionally as late as 1600. We visited all sites on foot and conducted playback of tape-recorded conspecific songs at 50 to 100m intervals while walking upstream until a bird responded, and then continued at intervals of 20-30m to determine approximate territory size. In cases where there appeared to be sufficient habitat for

more than one pair of birds, we continued playback upstream from the first pair in an attempt to locate additional pairs. In addition to the ten sites that were surveyed on foot, we surveyed the area along the St. Croix from the Chisago County line to William O'Brien State Park by canoe. We located Louisiana Waterthrushes by listening for singing males, as well as by playback where streams entered the river. At permanent streams, we landed and did playback for at least the first 100m.

Results and Discussion

Number of Pairs

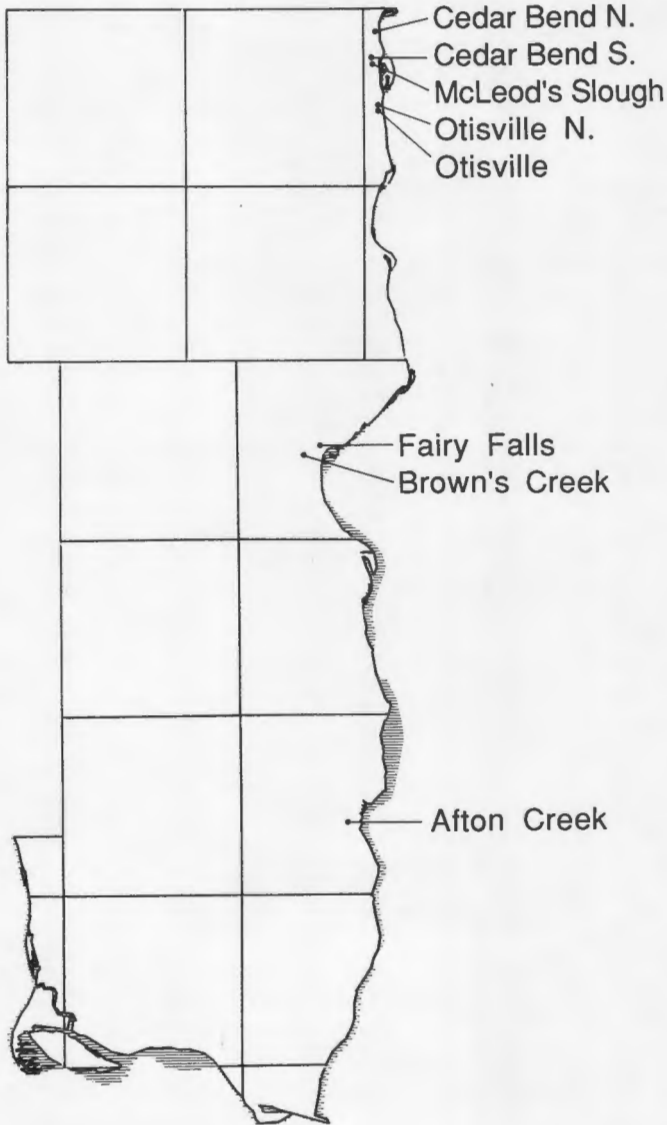
We found 11 territorial males and one apparently non-territorial bird of unknown sex on eight sites (Fig. 1, Table 1). On six of 11 territories, we saw or heard birds that we judged by their behavior to be females; on one site we discovered a nest with young.

Habitat

Seven of the territorial males were in relatively steep-sided valleys with permanent, swiftly flowing streams. This might be termed the typical habitat of the species based on accounts in the literature (Craig 1985). In several places portions of these stream valleys were broad and flat with little or no forest canopy over the banks. We found no territorial waterthrushes in such terrain, although in one area we did observe a non-singing individual that did not respond to playback.

Four territorial males were in somewhat different habitats. One site where a male and a presumed female were observed was a broad, relatively flat valley with low muddy banks on one side of the stream. The soil was peat and very wet, with skunk cabbage and jewelweed common. Louisiana Waterthrushes have been observed in structurally similar habitat in Pine County along the Tamarack River (L. Pfanmuller, pers. comm.). The most unusual occupied habitat we found was along the banks of the St. Croix just north of Cedar Bend, where we found

Fig. 1. Louisiana Waterthrush Locations
Washington County, 1988



three abutting territories on steep rocky slopes right at the river's edge. There were no ravines at these sites, but water from seeps was trickling down the rocky slopes at several points.

The forest communities close to the water

on all eight occupied sites were typical of mesic deciduous forest, with the canopy dominated in each case by sugar maple and basswood. On six sites scattered white pines were found on the surrounding slopes and

hill tops.

On 11 June we found a nest with young on the southernmost of the three territories at Cedar Bend N (Fig. 1), which is the first nest reported from Washington County. Initially, when we saw one of the adults carrying food, we decided to search for the nest. We took inconspicuous positions along the riverbank and farther up the slope, and watched the birds for over an hour before we were able to determine the nest's location. The adults were very reluctant to return to it, even though we were observing from more than 30m away. The nest faced the river, two m lower than the crest of the 50-60° slope, and 7m above the shoreline. It was recessed 15cm in a 15x25 cm cavity underneath overhanging tree roots, in a limestone outcrop about 1.5m high. Around the cavity, the ground was nearly bare, with only a few small ferns. The nest contained three waterthrush young (estimated to be five days old) plus one Brown-headed Cowbird young. The river was over 100m wide at this point, and several times

we watched the male fly across the river and forage along the sandy beach on the Wisconsin shore. We do not know whether the Wisconsin side was actually defended as part of his territory, or rather was an undefended feeding area. This waterthrush also foraged on the gravel and sand beach on the Minnesota side. As there were no stream ravines present on any of these three riverside territories, the narrow beaches may have been important foraging sites. If this is true, these territories may not be occupied in years of normal rainfall, when river levels are higher than they were in the very dry summer of 1988.

The three sites where we searched unsuccessfully for waterthrushes differed in one or several ways from those sites that were occupied. One steep-sided limestone creek valley just north of Stillwater (Stillwater Historic Boom Site), looked structurally similar to several other valleys that males defended, but did not contain a permanent stream. In a year of above-normal precipitation, this area may

Table 1. Summary of Louisiana Waterthrushes found in Washington County, June 1988.

Site	Location	Number of Territories	Individuals Found*	Habitat**
Cedar Bend, North	S6, T32N, R19W	3	3M, 2F	RB
Cedar Bend, South	S7, T32N, R19W	1	1M	SR
McLeod's Slough	S7, T32N, R19W	1	1M, 1F	SF
Otisville, North	S19, T32N, R19W	1	1M, 1F	SR
Otisville	S19, T32N, R19W	1	1M	SR
Fairy Falls	S16, T30N, R20W	2	2M, 1F	SR
Brown's Creek	S21, T30N, R20W	1	1M, 1F	SR
Afton Creek	S22, T28N, R19W	1	1M, 1U	SB

* Number of each sex: Male (by song); Female (presumed, by behavior); Unknown (non-territorial).

** Habitat: SR, stream ravine (steep rocky slopes, narrow ravine)
 SB, stream bank (vertical muddy banks, to 2.5 m high)
 SF, stream floodplain (flat, low, muddy banks)
 RB, St. Croix River bank (steep 50'60° rocky slope to water;
 river 100+ m wide)

well be suitable for one or two waterthrush territories. The other two sites where we sought, but did not find waterthrushes had wider, flatter valleys with few or no trees overhanging the streams.

Response to Playback

Playback of tapes of waterthrush songs, pre-recorded from records, elicited strong responses from both sexes. All males that responded did so quickly, vigorously, and persistently. This response consisted of: rapid approach; chipping loudly and persistently; flying back and forth a few meters above the ground in an agitated manner in the vicinity of the tape recorder and observers; and countering repeatedly from nearby perches. This response occurred even on hot afternoons, as well as when the male was not singing prior to playback. In several instances, birds that we considered females (because they did not countering) responded along with the male. Because all males observed responded so intensely to playback, and because the territories were restricted to a narrow strip bordering the streams, we feel that we located virtually all of the territorial males present on the creek ravines that we surveyed.

Status in Washington County

All but one of the sites identified as containing potential habitat for Louisiana Waterthrushes were in the northern part of the county, and consequently, all but one of the territories found were also in the northern part of the county. We believe we visited all valleys with permanent streams that fit the classic habitat type preferred by the species. The strong response of all 11 males considered to be territorial, as well as the fact that presumed females were observed on six of the territories, is good evidence that the birds were breeding on most, if not all of the sites where they were observed. Many of the sites are subject to at least a moderate amount of human disturbance. One of the sites, Fairy Falls, is a favorite gathering spot for local people, as evidenced by numerous beer cans and debris below the falls. Most of the stream valleys along the St. Croix have either campsites or cabins beside them. One stream valley at Otisville is immediately adjacent to a gravel road that leads to a public landing. Waterthrushes are apparently breeding at all

these sites, although increased development and disturbance could make these areas unsuitable.

In conclusion, although there are obviously no longer "hundreds" of Louisiana Waterthrushes breeding along the St. Croix, this study has doubled the number of possible breeding territories that have been recently reported statewide (Coffin and Pfanmuller 1988). It is likely that there are additional undiscovered pairs along the St. Croix in Washington County, perhaps 5-15, but we doubt that there are more than that. There are undoubtedly others breeding on the Wisconsin side that may be part of the same population, as well as more farther north along the St. Croix. The first author would appreciate receiving reports of Louisiana Waterthrushes observed during the breeding season at other locations in Washington County, or elsewhere in the state.

We would like to add a word of caution about the use of tapes to locate Louisiana Waterthrushes. The vigorous nature of the response we observed, plus the fact that the birds remained agitated for up to 30 minutes after playback was stopped, makes this species, as well as many passerine birds, vulnerable to disturbance from repeated or prolonged use of this procedure during sensitive stages of the breeding cycle.

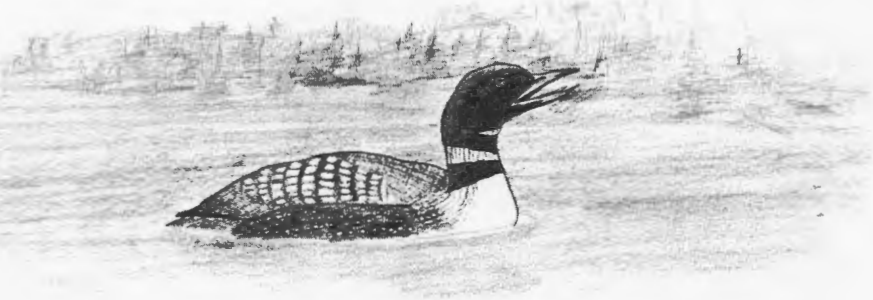
Acknowledgements

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Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Box 7, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155 (Eliason) and 4300 29th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406 (Fall)



NOTES OF INTEREST

A KING EIDER AT GRAND MARIAS — At about 7:40 a.m. on 30 October 1988, my wife Teri and I began scanning the Grand Marais harbor, looking east from the municipal campground and recreation area. After a few minutes, I spotted an interesting duck with a small group of goldeneyes near the middle of the harbor. It was a little larger than the goldeneyes, had a grayish bill, and its entire plumage was brown. From our distance, there was nothing particularly distinctive about this duck, but it didn't look like anything I was familiar with, so I began to consider the possibility that it was a female eider. As Teri watched through the scope, the bird dived in sea-duck fashion with its wings partially extended. Feeling sure now that it was an eider, we were anxious to get a closer look. The duck had separated itself from the goldeneyes and was swimming rather rapidly toward the east shore. Driving back in that direction, we parked on the street and relocated the bird without difficulty, almost directly out from us. We could see its sloping forehead, the feathers extending into the sides of its bill, and the rich brown, mottled coloration of its body. It was obviously an eider, but was it a Common or a King? We felt it was probably a King for several reasons: it was relatively small, it didn't appear strongly barred on its sides, and I knew that the King is considered a more likely stray in Minnesota. The bird continued to swim toward the east, and by the time we reached the Coast Guard station, it was so close to shore we couldn't immediately find it. We met another birder in this area and told her about the eider. As it turned out, she was part of a group that had driven up the North Shore from Duluth the previous day. When the bird reappeared, she went to report the sighting to the others. While she was gone, I watched the bird from a distance of less than 50 yards (Teri was concentrating on a Black Scoter) and became convinced that it was a King Eider. Within minutes the other birders began to arrive at the site, and before long there were nearly twenty of us. During the next hour or so, we watched the bird from as close as 40 feet. Kim Eckert and Parker Backstrom, perhaps the only ones among us who had any previous experience with the species, verified its identity. Without going into great detail, since the bird was photographed at close range, I will mention a few of the characteristics that helped us distinguish it from a female Common Eider. This eider was a little shorter than a male Mallard when the two were seen side by side. Its forehead was sloped, but the slope was less extreme than a Common's, a slight rise from the base of the bill giving the head a comparatively more rounded appearance. Though the feathering extended well into the sides of the bill, this area came to a blunt, somewhat rounded end. Illustrations of Common Eiders depict this area as more pointed. Finally, the bird's rusty-brown sides had rows of black crescent-shaped mark-

more pointed. Finally, the bird's rusty-brown sides had rows of black crescent-shaped markings. A female Common Eider would have had barred sides. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

Editor's Note: The eider was reportedly seen and photographed by other observers until 2 November, but it disappeared after that date. It may have died, possibly due to starvation, since many noted the bird was tame, lethargic and did not appear healthy.

A GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL AT BLACK DOG LAKE — On 2 December 1988, Parker Backstrom and I went down to Black Dog Lake, Dakota County, to look for the Lesser Black-backed Gull which had been discovered a few days previous. After finding this gull, we were joined by Tom Tustison who had originally found the bird, and several minutes later Bruce Fall also arrived to look over the gulls. After a few minutes I noticed a gull standing with the others on the lake ice that appeared to be an immature Great Black-backed Gull. Its overall size was clearly larger than all adjacent Herring Gulls, and its overall plumage was more "two-toned" than any first-winter Herring Gull: i.e., its head, neck and chest were relatively white, compared to the dark, mottled back and wings. These back and wing feathers were of a darker shade of brown than on an immature Herring Gull, almost a blackish-brown, and the edges of these feathers were also extensively whitish, creating a more mottled or "checkerboard-like" appearance than on a first-winter Herring. The only thing that made me hesitate about calling it a Great Black-backed immediately was the bill. It was all black except for a tiny pale area at the tip, but it was only slightly thicker than the bills of adjacent Herring Gulls. I called this bird to the others' attention, and for the next several minutes we studied it through 40X scopes as it rested on the ice about 80 yards away. Tom soon realized that this was probably the same individual that he and the others had seen here earlier in the week but were unable to see well enough to identify. All of us agreed that, in spite of the less-than-huge bill size (probably indicating a small female), this was indeed a Great Black-backed because of its overall body size and plumage. Eventually the gull took off with some Herring Gulls, and its overall darker and almost blackish mantle was even more obvious; also obvious was its clearly longer wing span than all adjacent Herring Gulls, and we could also see a well-defined black sub-terminal tail band about an inch or two wide which contrasted with the rest of the white tail. The proximal edge of this band was somewhat ragged and less clearly defined, blending in a bit with the white tail, but the tail pattern was much different than that of a Herring Gull of any age. On 4 December, Paul Egeland and I relocated this gull (presumably a first-winter bird, because of its almost all-black bill and lack of any solid blackish areas on the back) on the ice just east of the power plant, and several others were also able to observe it during the day. This represents only the second non-Duluth record of a Great Black-backed Gull in Minnesota. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

MALE SPRUCE GROUSE DISPLAYS — The Spruce Grouse in Minnesota is a regular, permanent resident of the boreal forests of the northeastern counties. It is found in Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Cook, northern St. Louis and Lake Counties, plus Itasca, Beltrami, and Hubbard Counties. In April and May of 1988, I observed the spring courtship/territorial displays of two male Spruce Grouse. The first encounter was on 23 April 1988 in Cook County at the end of the Gunflint Trail, 50 feet from a private drive at 10 a.m. The forest was a climax spruce/fir/jack pine type with heavy sphagnum moss ground cover. The site had not been altered since 1864 when a large fire swept the area. I was about 20 feet away from the male Spruce Grouse. He rubbed his beak vigorously on the branch he was perched on, about 15 feet up in a live Black Spruce, and then proceeded with his display. The display consisted of puffing himself out by erecting the breast and neck feathers, the red eye combs, tail and undertail coverts. Then he would slowly spread his tail feathers wide, then suddenly snap them together and apart again to the spread position. Then he slowly brought the



Male Spruce Grouse, May 1988, Gunflint Trail, Cook County. Photo by Mark Stensaas.

rectrices back together. The sound created by this display was like a quick double deer snort. The sound can be imitated by placing your index finger an inch from your mouth and blowing at it in two quick bursts. I did this when I had lost contact with the bird and suddenly he reappeared. Did he think another displaying male was in his territory? He was now twenty feet up on a five inch diameter dead spruce which was caught at a 45° angle. He strutted down his log and repeated the tail-snap display several more times. The display was done with him facing me, facing away from me and broadside to me. On 30 April 1988, between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m., I encountered what I presumed to be the same male, fifty feet away from the last encounter, in a Black Spruce bordering the gravel drive. When he saw me, he fluttered down onto the road as if to intentionally encounter me. I walked closer and, as I did, he erected his chest feathers and eye combs. His tail was also erect and slightly spread so that as he started to strut around about in front of me, his body appeared to rock back and forth laterally causing the stiff rectrices to rub together and create a curious grating sound. He also rubbed his beak energetically in the gravel on several occasions. This bird was encountered several more times along the drive in the first half of May. The second territorial male Spruce Grouse was discovered on the same day, 23 April 1988, and only a

half mile south of the previously described site on a private island in Seagull Lake. This island is also moss-covered, climax spruce/fir/jack pine forest undisturbed since the 1864 fire. The bird was found at the intersection of two narrow footpaths, five feet up on a bare branch of a Black Spruce. He did the same chest-puffing, tail-snapping display but then flew about 25 feet down to the footpath. Here he stayed a minute or so and then flew back towards me and perched on a trail sign, six feet up and ten feet from me. He would also, on occasion, display from this perch. From here he flew down to a spot of moss covered ground, and in a minute or so was back on his original display perch. This four point pattern is significant in that he was observed many times in late April and early May repeating this pattern with only minor variations. On 1 May 1988, at the same path intersection, I again encountered the male Spruce Grouse on the ground near the Black Spruce perch tree. I imitated the tail-snap sound and the bird instantly responded by hopping up on a six-inch stump, drawing his body erect and twice flapping his wings very stiffly. He then flew up to the Black Spruce perch. This stiff wing flap often preceded the flight from the ground to the elevated display perches. The number of wing flaps was variable with either one, two, or three being observed. Observations of this male were common through the first half of May but decreased dramatically after that. The last time he was observed was on 24 July 1988, when an imitation of the tail-snap display only produced a half-hearted erection of his chest and neck feathers. Females were never observed in the vicinity of either of the displaying males. All displays seemed directed at the observer. A female Spruce Grouse was observed several times in July only twenty yards from the display site of the male on the island. It is not known whether mating, egg laying, or hatching occurred. **Mark Stensaas, P.O. Box 3564, Duluth, MN 55803.**

A FEBRUARY YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — Nine hours of scouring ditches and fields did not yield any Snow Buntings, which were the object of my in-depth search in Houston County that Friday, 10 February 1989. I then took the hill road down to Rushford which becomes North Money Creek Street once the border is crossed into Fillmore County. Several houses along that residential street have feeding stations; there were more Purple Finch and Pine Siskins in this area than I had seen all winter anywhere in southern Minnesota. The feeders at the corner of North Money Creek and Pine Streets were especially active. To my surprise, hanging from the suet bag was a female Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. In size, it was slightly smaller than the Hairy Woodpeckers on the same tree from which the suet hung. It had a red cap, but a white throat and chin. A large white patch was in evidence in the wing, and it had a white rump and blackish back — all field marks of the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Behind the house, in fact all along the south base of the bluff, were tall old pines. The opposite south-facing bluff was mixed deciduous and cedar. (Most of the streams and creeks in southeastern Minnesota were open with running water.) Could it be that there was enough needed feeding requirements for the sapsucker? Once home, I called Stella Larsen who lives and birds in Rushford. She thought the home on the corner was that of George Woll. I called him to see if he had seen the bird around but he told me he didn't know what birds he fed; he just fed them all. So on 15 February, I returned to sit at the corner off and on for several hours, but I did not see the sapsucker again. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918-15th Ave. S.W., Rochester, MN 55902.**

A STAGING AREA FOR RING-BILLED GULLS — Until the fall of 1985, I hadn't noticed great numbers of Ring-billed Gulls either flying over my house toward Forest Lake or gathering on the lake itself. But on 19 October 1985, on noticing scattered flocks of Ring-bills flying overhead toward the lake about 600 yards to the east, a few minutes before sunset, I went to the lake. About 2000 gulls were there on the first lake. Again on 3 November the count was the same. In 1986, a few gulls were present on 8 October, but on 5 November, I counted 2034. Freeze-up came early, so the last gulls were seen on 12 November, when only 12 were there. In 1987 the first count was 600 on 21 October. The highest count was

on 29 October when 1387 flew eastward over our neighborhood in the evening, bringing the number on the lake to 1980. After that, their numbers varied widely: 110 on 5 November, 885 on the 10th, 1340 on the 11th, 200 to 500 each day till 1 December when only 140 were left to watch the lake freeze over. Typically, some gulls stayed at the lake all day long while others flew out in the morning to feed in newly-plowed fields, returning near sunset. Some evenings the air over my house was alive with gulls feeding like swallows on flying insects. Sometimes the gulls found shoaling baitfish and dove upon them almost like terns. One evening about 600 Ring-bills gathering just off-shore from where I stood; they became a whirling, diving, crying orgy of white birds snatching at the tiny fish just under the surface in a foot or two of water. Could the drought in 1988 have been a factor in reducing the number of gulls that fall? Only on one evening did I see them flying toward the lake, and then only a few. However, they arrived somewhat earlier — one on 29 July; in the dozens in mid-August; 500 to 600 on one day in mid-September; a high of 240 in October; but up to 850 on 8 November. After that, their numbers dwindled until the last 50 left on the 23rd, the day the lake froze over. **Wm. H. Longley, 532 W. Broadway, Forest Lake, MN 55025.**

A HENSLOW'S SPARROW IN OCTOBER — It was a poor choice of day to be looking for migrating waterfowl on the Mississippi River: Saturday, 9 October 1988 was the duck hunting opener. The duck numbers were down, hunters were generally unhappy, and DNR enforcement was in evidence all along the river checking limits. At a few river landings, I found myself in line for inspection, and not wanting to “budge,” waited and watched the DNR personnel hard at work trying to make sure that the already low duck population had not been overtaxed. I greatly admired their patience and tact. However, once down-river at Reno, I opted for a different route and headed inland along the Reno Trail. I stopped near the top, looking for a State Forest Road, shown on the map, that led back down the other side of the bluff I had ascended. There I played a screech-owl tape to see what the chickadees would bring with them from the copse on my right. The exact location where I had stopped was the crest of the Reno Trail in Crooked Creek Township, Section 15, Houston County. Chickadees, a Field Sparrow, and a few White-throated Sparrows were the best the copse had to yield. Across the road was an upland weedy meadow; there a small bird popped up and perched on a weed stalk. I could scarcely believe my eyes; the bird was only about ten feet from me, too close to use my binoculars. It looked like a Henslow's! It was about the size of a Grasshopper Sparrow and appeared flat-headed. (It looked like it had no forehead.) Its bill was big looking, relative to its head size. It had a striped head with the background color a greenish wash. There was a dark smudge behind the ear, and a dark mustache mark. There was a wash of rufous on the wings which were very brown in base color. The breast was unstreaked, yellow-buff in color. It occasionally twitched its tail like a Swamp or Lincoln's Sparrow. After seeing all the above, I decided it was indeed a Henslow's Sparrow, and promptly wrote field notes and attempted a sketch. I then checked Bob Janssen's *Birds in Minnesota*, and was somewhat relieved to find that there had been other October sightings recorded. Once home, I called Lynelle Hanson who is studying the species as it occurs in Minnesota, and also called Fred Leshner who birds this area along the river. The last Henslow's Fred had seen away from Kipp Park where they nest was in similar habitat a few miles north of where I had sighted the Henslow's. This area will bear watching in 1989. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15 Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902**

PRAIRIE FALCON IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — At about 12:50 a.m. on 26 December 1988, my father and I were driving east on 62nd Street on the west side of the International Airport when we spotted a large falcon flying ahead of us. The bird had narrow pointed wings, its flight was direct and the wing strokes were shallow. We followed it along 62nd Street until it landed on a tower with a radar bubble on top in the Naval Reserve Station. When we were able to get in a spot where we could observe the falcon, it was perched on the top step of the stairs leading up to the underside of the dome. The falcon was facing

towards us and had to lean forward slightly to fit under the base of the dome. We observed the following field marks: The falcon had very narrow, brown, sideburns and a broader brown patch behind the eye and then a white patch on the side of the nape that connected to the white throat. The breast and belly were white with narrow brown lengthwise streaking. The top of the head was also brown. (The underside of the dome was painted grey, giving a good contrast to the brown on the bird.) The eyes were black, the bill was slate grey, the cere was a light grey. Talons were grey and tarsus feathering was white. After about 15 minutes of observation, the falcon flew off in the direction of Mother Lake. At that time, we observed dark axillars and inner wing linings forming a triangle between the axillars and the bend of the wing. I made sketches immediately after the sighting, although I am not a Fuertes. We notified a few birding friends and the bird hotline immediately after the sighting. Although we made return trips over the next few days, we were unable to find the falcon again.
Richard A. Hale, 802 Lake Arthur Court, Slidell, LA 70461.

Editor's Note: What was no doubt the same individual, was seen by many observers into mid-January 1989.

LATE DATE FOR AN INDIGO BUNTING — On 26 November 1988, while watching to see how gray squirrels were managing to get to a feeder previously unconquered, I spotted an unobtrusive bird. It was smaller than a House Sparrow, twelve feet straight out the window and a mystery without binoculars. After racing to get my 8x35 binoculars, I could then tell it was an Indigo Bunting. On the 27th, in better light and at the right angle, faint blue was discernable at the shoulder, mid-point on the folded primaries and midway on the outer tertials. It was a first year male, which Ray Glassel saw on the same day. Upon the bird's return, shortly after Ray left, a Northern Shrike flew right into the somewhat hidden feeding area and tail-chased the bunting out of sight. The Indigo Bunting was never seen again. A brief description follows: Dull brown overall coloration; lighter throat and undertail coverts; rows of streaks on back (only noticeable from rear); diffuse streaking on breast, lesser so on flanks; light brown wing bars, lower bar longer; no streaking on head; black eye — lighter eyelids or ring; dark beak — lighter phase of lower mandible — culmen curved; legs plain; trace of blue on shoulder, primaries, tertiaries; tail flipped downward; Fed on cracked corn and/or white millet. The Indigo Bunting was never seen again. **Gary N. Swanson, Rt. 3, Box 166D, Buffalo, MN 55313.**

FOREST FIRE BIRDING — A major forest fire burned 440 acres of Cook County's Superior National Forest on 7-8 May, 1988. The fire was bordered on the south by Bearskin Lake and Clearwater Road, (Cook Co. Hwy. 66), and on the north by Daniels Lake and the Border Route Trail. The Clearwater Road is 25 miles from Grand Marais on the Gunflint Trail. The fire crowned out and burned the area rather completely. On 26 May 1988, I stopped by for a look at the site. It had been less than three weeks since the fire, and the regrowth was incredible. Four species of herbaceous plants were up and covering the charred ground and logs; clintonia, spreading dogbane, large-leaved aster and an unidentified species. A Black-backed Woodpecker was working on fallen fire-killed trees in the burn area. I returned to the fire site on 21 July 1988, then 10½ weeks after the fire was brought under control. Large-leaved aster was the dominant ground cover in bloom and was, in spots, nearly waist high. Also in bloom was fireweed, spreading dogbane and a mint species. Emerged, but not blooming, were clintonia, fringed bindweed, vetch species, raspberry, wild rose and bunchberry. The birds had long since quit singing in the boreal forests of northern Cook County, but the burn was alive with bird activity. I ran an informal bird survey in the burn between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. I came up with Chipping Sparrows (10), White-throated Sparrows (8), American Robins (8), Barn Swallows (3), Common Grackles (2), American Kestrels (2), Northern Flicker (1), Common Raven (1), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Great Blue Heron (1), Song Sparrow (1), Eastern Bluebird (1) and Black-backed Woodpecker (1 male). Also seen

just outside the complete burn, in a ground-and-trunk-burned area, were two more Black-backed Woodpeckers and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. This is a very interesting list for land bordering the BWCA. The fire created desirable edge habitat and a large open area for perching, hunting and nesting snags. Insects were also abundant, especially grasshoppers. This made an ideal habitat for birds not commonly found in Superior National Forest, especially Barn Swallows and Eastern Bluebirds. The Black-backed Woodpeckers were no doubt brought in by the fire-killed trees with their now more easily extracted store of wood-boring beetles. Fire is a serious problem when threatening homes and lives, but in the natural ecosystem, it is essential in the ridding of ground litter, prevention and destruction of disease and insect plagues, renewing of the soil, and maintaining the natural balance of life. Smokey the Bear is changing his views on forest fires and so should we. **Mark Stensaas, P.O. Box 3564, Duluth, MN 55803.**



HARLEQUIN DUCK SPECIMEN — An immature male Harlequin Duck was collected on Artichoke Lake, Big Stone County, on 3 November 1988 by Charles Hanson. The bird was probably a cripple resulting from the extremely heavy hunting pressure on the lake during the weekend of 29 and 30 October 1988. **John Schladweiler, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Box 756, New Ulm, MN 56073.**

ADULT LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL AT DIAMOND LAKE — Peter Getman reported on 11 September 1988 that he had seen an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull in a flock of Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls in a field between French and Diamond Lakes in northern Hennepin County. The bird remained in the area for approximately one week, being seen by numerous Twin City birders. I found the bird on 14 September 1988 resting on Diamond Lake with Ring-billed and Franklin's Gulls. There were ten other observers present at the time. Viewing conditions were good even though the bird was about 200 yards away. Skies were overcast, so there wasn't a light problem while we were looking at the bird from east to west. There was no wind so the surface of the lake was smooth. The bird was obviously

larger than the Ring-billed Gulls by direct comparison. The charcoal black back stood out very well in spite of the distance. The longer wings extending beyond the tail gave the bird a buoyant look as it sat on the water. The head, neck, and chest were pure white except for a few dark streaks on the crown and nape. A few long distance photos were taken of the bird by Mary and Steve Zehner which show the dark back and size differential between it and the Ring-billed Gulls. Photos taken of this bird by Gordon Anderson, in a stubble field on the east side of Diamond Lake show clearly the leg color as yellow, thus eliminating other similar gull species. This is the first record for Hennepin County for this species. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd. #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL AT BLACK DOG — A third-winter Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen by many observers on 4 December 1988 at Black Dog Lake, Dakota County. It was first seen on 30 November by Tom Tustison. One could spot it easily by its slightly smaller size and dark mantle. A large group of us observed it off and one for an hour in two places at Black Dog through scopes and binoculars while it was sitting, preening, and flying at various distances of 200 to 600 feet. The following is a description of the bird: dark backed, nearly "adult" plumaged gull; size — slightly smaller than a Herring Gull, most noticeably when standing and walking among the Herring Gulls; mantle — dark slate gray, slightly lighter than black primaries. When flying in some lights the mantle and secondaries had a brownish tinge (molt), especially the secondaries and coverts adjacent to primaries dorsally. Primaries were black. Secondaries were dark ventrally. Legs were bright yellow. The tail was completely white. The head was in winter plumage with a dark smudge through the eye and the heaviest streaking on the nape. The rest of the underparts were white. The bill was yellow at the tip with a red gonydeal spot, but blackish at the base of the bill. **Janet C. Green, 10550 Old North Shore Road, Duluth, MN 55804.**

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT BLACK DOG LAKE — At about 1:45 p.m. on Saturday, 3 December 1988, my wife Teri, Tom Tustison and I drove from Black Dog Lake, Dakota County, to the nearby dump, where we hoped to find the Great Black-backed Gull we'd last seen flying in that direction. The attendant refused to give us permission to enter so we headed back toward the concentration of gulls on the lake. On our way we stopped at the spillway into the Minnesota River, just east of the I-35 bridge. From the bank of the river Teri pointed out an unusual gull swimming below us, less than 40 yards away. Although the species was new to us, we easily identified the bird as a Black-legged Kittiwake. It was a fairly small gull, a little shorter than a Ring-billed and much daintier. With its relatively thin, blackish bill and the black spot behind its dark eye, it resembled an immature Bonaparte's Gull. But this bird also had a conspicuous black bar, about two inches wide, across its nape. Its back and folded wings were light gray. A blackish area on the sides ran diagonally across the wings from a point below the shoulder up toward the black primaries. We'd been studying the kittiwake with binoculars and a spotting scope for about twenty minutes when Ray Glassel appeared. Together we watched it swim across the middle of the river into Hennepin County. Minutes later it lifted off and began flying around the spillway, often below eye level. As it circled it passed within 50 feet of us. We noted the bold, black "M" pattern across the upperwings, and the black terminal band on the white tail. The tail's shape was distinctive in flight in that the outer edges were held higher than the middle. Interestingly, the legs were not black but rather a dusky olive. A woman came along who told us that she and Gary Swanson had spent nearly two hours looking for the kittiwake on the east side of the NSP plant. Apparently someone had seen the bird there a couple hours before we found it on the river. Since this was the weekend of the 50th anniversary M.O.U. annual meeting and paper session, held less than 20 miles away in Minneapolis, countless observers from around the state saw the kittiwake on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. The bird remained in the area through 8 December, actively feeding on the small fish that seemed to be easy pickings at the spillway. This is the first record of a Black-legged Kittiwake in the Twin



Black-legged Kittiwake, 4 December 1988, Minnesota River, Black Dog, Dakota/Hennepin County. Photo by Donn Mattsson.

Cities metro area. There was, however, a sighting by Joanne Dempsey of a first-winter Black-legged Kittiwake, 8 November, 1988, at Lock and Dam No. 2 on the Mississippi River in Hastings, only about 25 miles from Black Dog Lake. The Hastings bird was observed flying above the river for several hours, but it disappeared that afternoon and wasn't seen again. It is possible, though we can only speculate, that these two sightings involved the same bird. Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.

LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH IN KITTSON COUNTY — On 9 August 1988, I was birding below the dam on the west side of Lake Bronson State Park. I walked down a steep embankment to a small spring-fed backwater surrounded by thick dense brush. As I neared the water I heard a metallic "chink" call, like that of other waterthrushes I had heard earlier in the day. I then "pushed" a few notes, and a bird suddenly darted up from the water's edge to a perch on a dead branch ten feet in front of me on the hillside. The first thing that I noticed, as the bird faced me at eye level, was an immaculate white throat edged by small dark streaks forming malar stripes on the sides of the throat to the upper breast where the breast streaking started. A narrow spotless white stripe also extended from the base of the bill to the upper breast above the malar stripe. The next most striking feature I noticed was the stark white breast with smaller streaks near the top of the breast to larger dark brown streaks on the rest of the breast, belly flanks and under tail coverts. When the bird turned, there was a dash of rusty color on the flanks just behind the legs. The bill appeared to be mostly darkish with a small yellowish spot at the base of the lower mandible. There was a long bright white eye stripe extended behind the eye; it became slightly wider until its terminus at the top of the back of the head. The face was brownish with a partial eye ring

below the eye. The back, wings, tail and crown were a plain brown. The legs were a pinkish color. **Alison Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407.**

Editor's note: The above record is another considerable range-extension for the Louisiana Waterthrush into northwestern Minnesota. During May 1988, Ray Glassel and I saw a Louisiana Waterthrush in Red Lake County (*The Loon* 60:91).

A BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK IN AITKIN — Greg and Janet Ronnback first saw the bird on Friday morning 18 November 1988. They called me and I stopped by on my way to work, but didn't see it in the few minutes I had. Their description of it made me believe it was an immature Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Saturday afternoon 19 November, they called to say that the bird was there. I went right away, and, after sitting for a few minutes in their house, we spotted the bird sleeping in a nearby cedar with its back toward us and its head tucked under its wing. Then, ten minutes later, it flew down to the feeder. The first thing that struck my mind was its beautiful ochre-on-a-clear-yellow breast with no streaking. With binoculars, we could see a definite yellow patch or crescent at the bend of the shoulder.



Black-headed Grosbeak, 24 November 1988, Aitkin, Aitkin County. Photo by Steve Blanych.

Other things noted: the white stripe over the eye; wide dark band through the eye; white stripe beneath the dark band; two white wing bars; white central crown stripe; heavy "grosbeak" bill; pale stripes on lower flanks near the legs; ochre to orange color on back; back appeared striped especially toward the head. When the bird flew in a second time, definite yellow wing linings could be seen. (A few days later, it flew directly overhead and the yellow wing linings were noted by several of us). The *National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America* was referred to while watching the bird and it was determined that it had to be Black-headed Grosbeak. On Sunday, 20 November, Steve and Jo Blanich, Parker Backstrom, Kim Risen and I were back at Ronnback's sofa at 8:00 in the morning. They all agreed with my assessment of the bird and that it was indeed a Black-headed Grosbeak. The bird was last seen at the Ronnback's feeder on Friday, 25 November, and last seen in the area on Saturday, 26 November at a feeder a couple of houses away. **Warren Nelson, 603 Second Street N.W., Aitkin, MN 56431.**

A HUMMINGBIRD RESCUE — While visiting my daughter in Roseau, I heard a strange humming sound coming from high up in her garage. Upon investigation, I discovered a female or immature Ruby-throated Hummingbird desperately trying to find its way out, to no avail. I thought of a butterfly net, but lacking one, as well as knowing the speed of this species, I gave up on that idea. Then I tried putting a flower up near the spot it would stop a minute to rest... first a blue one — no response — then a red one. She seemed more interested, but not until I finally hit upon the obvious. I put a red aster on a long pole, thoroughly doused it with sugar water, and held it up near her perch. Within seconds she lit on it and started taking the water, as I slowly lowered the pole and carefully put it out the door. Off she flew to freedom! **Nancy A. Jackson, 325 Andover, Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750.**

AN ICELAND GULL: SPECIES NO. 8 AT BLACK DOG, DECEMBER 1988 — On 5 December 1988, I decided to look over the gulls at Black Dog Lake one more time before heading back to Duluth. Marcia Scott and I first stopped at the outlet of the lake on the Minnesota River and saw the Black-legged Kittiwake which had been discovered here 3 December. A first-winter Thayer's Gull was also flying around when we arrived, and the Lesser Black-backed was seen briefly as it flew off in the direction of the lake. We then went over to the lake to get a better look at the Lesser Black-backed, but because we were looking somewhat into the sun our view was not the best. After a while, however, the bird flew back towards the outlet on the river, and we returned to this spot. Here Steve Carlson and a handful of other birders had arrived and were looking at the kittiwake and the Lesser Black-backed, and Steve pointed out to me a gull he assumed was an adult Thayer's Gull swimming in the river about 50 yards away. Viewing conditions were excellent because the sun was at our backs, and through my 40X Kowa scope, I could see this gull's brown iris, yellow bill with red spot on the gonys, white head, neck and underparts, and clear gray back and folded wings (about the same shade of gray as adjacent adult Herring Gulls). Its bill size and shape and overall body size were about the same as the Herring Gulls with it, except that the head appeared slightly rounder and the neck slightly thinner. However, when I studied the folded wing tips, I could see that the color surrounding the white primary spots or mirrors was gray, only a slightly darker shade than the mantle, with no trace of any black. This indicated to me that this was most likely an adult Iceland Gull rather than a Thayer's, and Steve and the others and I watched it for several minutes. A few times the gull would raise its wings and we could see that the undersides of the wing tips were virtually pure white with no trace of gray or black, while an adult Thayer's Gull normally has a narrow black edge on the trailing edge of the outer primaries. Because it is often difficult to separate Iceland and Thayer's Gulls of any age, I decided that we should see the gull in flight to be able to observe the color of the upper surface of the spread outer primaries. As Steve and others walked closer to the gull, it flew up and circled around us at eye level before settling down again in the river, and we could see the upper surface of the wing tips appeared

basically whitish with some small areas of gray in the outer primaries. Again, this shade of gray was only slightly darker than the gray on the mantle, and I was now convinced this was an adult Iceland Gull rather than a Thayer's because of the total lack of any black pigment in the wing tips. At one point a genuine adult Thayer's swam right next to the Iceland for direct comparison; also seen here at the same time were two second-winter Thayer's, first-winter Glaucous, plus the aforementioned kittiwake and Lesser Black-backed, as well as the usual Herrings and a few Ring-billeds. Although I did not have the time to look for the immature Great Black-backed that day on Black Dog Lake or near the power plant, I assume it was still in the area since it was present during the previous few days. In any event, no fewer than eight species of gulls were present during this time at Black Dog, certainly an all-time Minnesota gull record, with seven of these in view simultaneously at the outlet on the Minnesota River on 5 December. **Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804.**

Editor's Note: What may have been the same bird was seen on the Mississippi River near Holman Field in St. Paul, Ramsey County. The bird was found and described by Ray Glassel on 18 December 1988 and seen by Anne Marie Plunkett and Bob Janssen on 23 December 1988.

WARBLER ENTANGLED IN BURDOCK — In September of 1987, while walking down a downtown Duluth alley, I came upon a dead fall-plumaged warbler of undetermined species. It was hanging from the middle of a common burdock (*Articum minus*) plant that had gone to seed. Upon closer inspection, I discovered that its foot was entangled in the plant's hooked seed bur. One wing also seemed to be entangled in another seed bur. The bird possibly perched on the burdock to feed on insects when its foot became entangled resulting in the bird struggling and its wing becoming snared. Being totally trapped, it was only a matter of time before the bird starved to death. **Mark Stensaas, P.O. Box 3564, Duluth, MN 55803.**



Fall warbler caught in common burdock, Duluth, September 1987. Photo by Mark Stensaas.

ROSS' GOOSE AT ROCHESTER — On my way to an appointment on 22 November 1988, I made a swing past Silver Lake in Rochester, Olmsted County. It was 9:15 a.m. and many of the thousands of Canada Geese that winter there had left for outlying feeding fields. I noticed a white-colored goose in the middle of the lake and observed that the goose was noticeably smaller than nearby Canadas. Knowing that a Ross' Goose had been on this lake at about the same time in 1987, and having made observations at that time, I quickly noted that besides the size field mark, there was a different shape to the bird. The head was more rounded and the forehead was more steeply sloping than the more gently sloping and oval shape of the Snow Goose head. The bill was more duck-like, and I could detect no "smile" line. The line where the bill met the head was also more vertical than that of the Snow Geese I remembered. Later in the day I returned and saw two white-phase Snow Geese and wondered if I had misidentified the previous bird. However, I found out that Jerry Bonkowski had been to the lake at noon and seen both the Ross' Gosse and the Snow Geese on the lake at the same time. The Ross' Goose apparently left that day and hasn't been seen since. This is only the tenth Ross' Goose seen in Minnesota and the third at Silver Lake. **Paul Pedersen, 816 Fourth Avenue S.E., Stewartville, MN 55976.**

RECOGNITION TESTS FOR HUNTERS? — One day last summer two men in a small 4x4 pickup dropped by our place to ask if they could arrange to hunt on our property after the season started. Our 90 acres, mostly woodland and marsh, is posted "No hunting; wildlife preserve," but they were courteous and friendly and I wanted to respond in the same spirit. So I said, "There are some animals that seem over abundant here — are you rabbit hunters?" One responded, "No, duck hunters." "Well," I said, "I don't think so — this year especially. You see, this is the first year we have had Wood Ducks nesting here in our nest boxes." "We would not want to shoot your Wood Ducks; don't worry about that," said one. "They are beautiful birds," said the other, "there is one now!" indicating the large bird alighting in a tree nearby. It was a Green-backed Heron! Regulating and licensing of hunting seems to be the best compromise anyone can suggest between sportsmen and conservationists. But licensing and quotas will not work to ensure a properly selective impact on wild populations if the hunter is not able to identify the bird or animal in his sights. Mistaking a Green-backed Heron for a Wood Duck may be rare (and it might be safe to assume it would not be repeated by the same hunter) but mistaking a Greater Prairie-Chicken for a female Ring-necked Pheasant probably has happened fairly frequently, to everyone's loss. Perhaps we should advocate that a prospective hunter pass a test of his ability to recognize different species before he is issued a license. Then even the unsuccessful hunter could know what he is missing. **George Helling, 6650 Derit Ave., Webster, MN 55088.**

Birding Is — An Ivory Gull Is — The Answer To Winter

Robert B. Janssen

It was a drab, dreary January day — the temperature was in the low 30's with an impending storm which threatened to shut down travel in western and northern Minnesota. A trip planned to East Grand Forks to observe Minnesota's second Brambling had to be cancelled. Yes, we are tough in Minnesota, but to drive 600+ miles through 21 inches of snow piled into five foot drifts by 40 mile per hour winds may be a bit foolish — it is better to live to see more birds than to put all your efforts into one Brambling. As it turned out, it didn't make any difference. We couldn't have reached our destination anyway. I-94 and Highway 10 were closed beyond Alexandria and Detroit Lakes. As an alternative we spent the morning birding

just north of the Twin Cities. The murky conditions at Carlos Avery Refuge produced only two beautiful Rough-legged Hawks and a picturesque Barred Owl perched along a back road. The Varied Thrush had left the feeder near Elk River, probably because the residents had spent ten days in Europe and no one filled the feeders. How is a Varied Thrush to exist in Minnesota in January? Wright County was birdless. The snow began to fall, the winds came up out of the northwest and the temperature fell 14 degrees in one hour — only in Minnesota! It was time to head home, pay bills, work on a speech, and wait for the Sunday football playoffs. Not a real memorable birding weekend.

However, in the evening at the usual time, I listened to the messages on the Hotline. There was a calm, quiet message about an Ivory Gull on Cedar Lake in St. Croix County, Wisconsin: the ultimate bird on almost any birder's want list: the species I have dreamt about, thought about, fantasized about for many years. But, this one was in **Wisconsin** — too bad for a provincial Minnesota birder like me. I called Ray Glassel, Minnesota's premier birder and lister, to tell him about the Ivory Gull. He already knew about the bird — the word had spread like wildfire through the birding community. We talked about the bird for a few minutes and then went back to our planned activities. A few minutes after hanging up, it hit me — an Ivory Gull one hour away! I called Ray back and said I would be over at 6:30 A.M.

The roads were the worst I have seen in years: glare ice, cars and trucks in the ditch, the winds were blowing 25-35 miles per hour. In Wisconsin, I-94 was a sheet of ice. Somehow we made it to the Highway 65 exit. "What was I doing in Wisconsin under these conditions?" I thought. I really felt I was "losing it." Finally, around 8:00 A.M., we got to Cedar Lake. What a wintery scene! Fresh snow piled high and winds blowing it into drifts, the sun beginning to come out, the temperature below zero. The fish houses out on the lake 200 yards away looked deserted and forlorn, but this is where the bird was being seen. Even for an Ivory Gull accustomed to the bleak Arctic, it was a desolate scene. Things began to pick up when we saw Ted Schmidt brushing the snow off his bird feeders. We were elated to hear that he had seen the gull just a half hour earlier. He said, "Let's walk out to the fish houses and look for the bird," picking up two lake trout fillets to use as bait. As we started our walk through the deep snow, he told us of his excitement at discovering the bird and wondering what it was, looking it up in "the book" and having his mother tell him it was impossible to have an Ivory Gull in western Wisconsin.

A strong northwest wind blew as we sought shelter behind one of the fish houses. Ten minutes, 20 minutes went by, 40 minutes, 50 minutes — no gull. My right foot was getting numb. I finally said to Ray, "Let's go back to the car and warm up." No answer from Ray, which meant, "Let's wait a few more minutes." About a minute later I looked to the south and saw a shadowy, white form coming around the point. I yelled "There it is" and at long last a dream came true. The Ivory Gull circled behind the fish houses out of sight and then reappeared. Ted threw the lake trout fillets in the air; they landed about 30 feet away. Immediately the Ivory Gull saw the food and flew over to feed. For the next half hour the bird stood in front of us and afforded us with every possible view we could hope for.

Seeing the gull reminded me of another memorable experience during a trip to New York several years ago, when one of my goals was to see my first original Vermeer painting on display in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It was a crowded room at the Met that Sunday afternoon in winter. I walked into the room where the Vermeer was, "Woman with a Water Jug." In the painting, light was streaming in a window shining on her white headpiece in typical Vermeer fashion. I was 30 feet away from the painting, looking through the crowd to the center of the opposite wall where the Vermeer hung. The painting appeared to be at the center of the universe.

Who said it was a dull disappointing weekend because a winter storm had forced us to cancel our original plans to see the Brambling?

Birding is — an Ivory Gull is — certainly the answer to winter, I thought, as we walked back across Cedar Lake, away from the gull, into a biting wind that no longer felt cold.

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds, we aim to create and increase public interest in birds and promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims through the publishing of a magazine, *The Loon*; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and color and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of sheet with generous margins. Notes of Interest should be generally less than two typewritten pages double-spaced. If reprints are desired the author should so

specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

Club information and announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Kim Eckert. See inside front cover.

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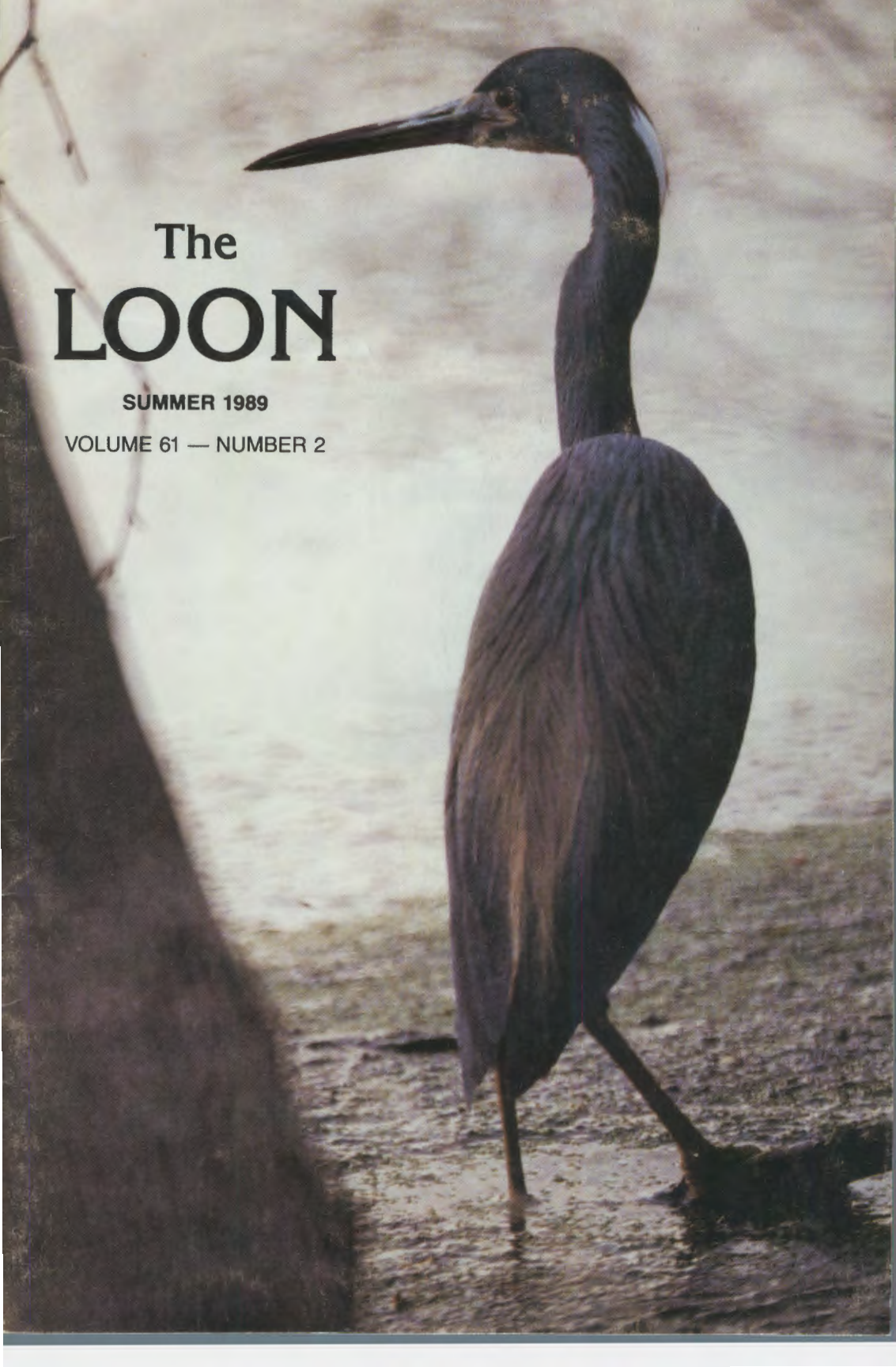
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MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, donate \$12.50 for a regular yearly membership. Or other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$15.00 yearly; Supporting \$20.00 yearly; Sustaining \$30 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$20.00 yearly. **All memberships are on a calendar year basis.** Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$3.00 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (minimum lots of 20 for \$5.00 postage paid).

Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should be sent to the Treasurer.

EDITOR OF THE LOON: Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedarr Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). The editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. See back cover for details. **Associate Editors:** Kim R. Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr. Duluth, MN 55804; Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902; Dr. Harrison Tordoff, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. **Photo Editor:** Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St., N.W., Aitkin, MN 56431.

"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON,"** Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Drive, Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

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A Frigatebird in Minnesota

Tom Tustison

On 30 September 1988, while observing a Ross' Goose at Lake of the Isles in Minneapolis, Bob Janssen, Steve Carlson and I were discussing the report a few days earlier of a Magnificent Frigatebird seen at Lake Itasca. Bob made the comment at that time about the number of frigatebird reports from many states around the Midwest; apparently, the birds had been pushed north by Hurricane Gilbert. That evening, I called Bill Litkey to advise him about the Ross' Goose. Our discussion turned to frigatebirds. We were jokingly talking about how finding a frigatebird in Minnesota with its large number of lakes was a "needle in the haystack" exercise. Nevertheless, I vowed to "keep my eyes open" for the next few days, in spite of the apparent futility of the effort.

The next day, 1 October, I was birding my usual neighborhood haunts — Black Dog, the Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, etc., in the morning. I decided to make a final stop at Acacia Cemetery in Dakota County before going home. I was scanning the skies for a possible peregrine, or other raptor, when a very eerie feeling came over me. It couldn't be a Magnificent Frigatebird right over my head! The all black bird with a sharp crook in the enormous wings which angled sharply back was spectacular as it glided silently toward the river bottoms and right toward Gun Club Lake. The giant "Barn Swallow" folded tail caught my eye immediately. Then the head with long projecting bill "clined" the bird. I watched it fly out of sight going southwest. I had just seen the "impossible." Thinking it might go over Black Dog and see the gulls, I checked both Gun Club and Black Dog Lakes (after calling other birders). The once in a lifetime bird had vanished.

Description and Behavior — Flight was very graceful and buoyant like a gull playing in an updraft — the bird was even more buoyant. The wing span was immense — perhaps longer than a Bald Eagle; the wing shape was very long and narrow. From the body to the tip, the wings had an obvious "crook" which was sharply angled or swept back; the tail was like a Barn Swallow's when folded — at no time was the tail opened; the

flight was almost all "glide" with an occasional flap which was more of a wing adjustment. I do recall the bird "folding in" the wing at the "wrist" to adjust its flight and gain speed. While moving away it was "floating" in a very gradual descending glide, like a small glider. This bird had a long stout bill which projected well beyond the head and was very noticeable even at 200-300 feet. The bird was all black or blackish with no color pattern of any kind. There were no marks, white, or other discernible pattern. The body was slender tapering toward both ends. The tail was fairly long (about a foot or more) and was compressed to a fine point. The flight was remarkably buoyant and extremely agile. As the bird was going away, wings appeared slightly bowed. Also, when going away the long bill (6-10" estimate) was visible as the head was slightly rotated.

Similar species — The Osprey has a rather wide tail similar to that of the Bald Eagle or Red-tailed Hawk. The tail on this bird was pointed like a barn swallow and immediately captured my attention. It was a very narrow compressed tail; I would refer to it as a "spike" or straight like a trailing "rope." Never does an Osprey's tail appear as compressed, even when in a dive; nor is it solid black. The same would be true of an eagle such as an immature Bald Eagle regarding the tail. The frigatebird was **all dark on all parts of the wings, tail and body.** Even immature Bald Eagles usually show white on wing linings when seen from below. Eagles have **much** wider wings without any "crook" and do not taper towards the tip. The original drawing (on file) of the tail on the frigate-bird was done in ink and should be shown as a "spike" at the tip and slightly more compressed. Since I could not erase this, a note was added for clarification. Another species which was eliminated was the Double-crested Cormorant. The adult cormorant is also all dark like the frigatebird. However, a cormorant has much shorter, wider wings. Also, the cormorant's head and neck project well beyond the body — similar to a goose, but with head held high giving a "kink in the neck" look. The cormorant usually has rapid

wing beats interspersed with glides. (It is true that cormorants sometimes make very long glides). The tail of a cormorant is short and wide and never "spiked" like a Barn Swallow, even when compressed like the bird observed. The head of the frigatebird was close to the body with little or no neck projection. The wings of the cormorant are of an entirely different shape. They are wide with open ends or "fingers." The wing of the frigatebird was very long and tapered with a very obvious or distinct "crook" at the wrist. The cormorant does not have the distinct crook or this shape. The wingspan of this bird was very wide — estimated to be wider than an eagle. This is a much wider wingspan than a cormorant. The immature Bald Eagle has a fan shaped tail. Also, the wings are much wider with much shorter proportioning, and "scraggly" whitish wing linings. This bird was all dark. The immature Golden Eagle has white patches on underwings and much different tail and wing shape (same with adults).

Turkey Vultures have wide, broad wings almost always held in dihedral when gliding with frequent side-to-side "tips." This bird did neither. In fact, from the rear, the wings appeared slightly bowed downward and definitely not upward. Also, Turkey Vultures have dark wing linings with lighter flight feathers (usually obvious); this bird was solid black. It also lacked the long rectangular tail of the Turkey Vulture. **2861 Highbridge Terrace, Eagan, Minnesota 55121**

Editors Note: The Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC) accepted Mr. Tustison's observation as the first record of a frigatebird in Minnesota on a unanimous 10-0 vote. However, some members felt that, from the details provided, the species of the individual seen could not be positively determined as a Magnificent Frigatebird. The Great Frigatebird is only a remote possibility. This species breeds on the Pacific Ocean islands off Costa Rica to the Galapagos Islands, and Hawaiian Islands to islands in the South China Sea, and off northeastern Australia to the Fiji and Tuamotu Islands. It also breeds on islands in the south Atlantic and in the Indian Ocean Islands of Aldabra and Seychelles.

There is one accidental record for the United States of the Great Frigatebird from Oklahoma in 1975.

Magnificent Frigatebirds were recorded in other areas of the Midwest at about the same time as the Minnesota bird, in all probability directly related to Hurricane Gilbert. There were sightings in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio.

On 22 September 1988, what was probably another Magnificent Frigatebird was seen at Lake Itasca, Clearwater County. A majority of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee members felt a frigatebird had been seen but the recorded details were not conclusive enough for acceptance of such an unusual and significant sighting.

Minnesota's Second Brambling Record

Anne Marie Plunkett

Angie Schneider had been faithfully filling her feeders at 333 James Street in East Grand Forks, but she wasn't luring many different species of birds to her feeders — mostly just House Sparrows, and an occasional Black-capped Chickadee. Nonetheless, she kept her feeders full. But then on 26 December 1988, she noticed something different — a bright flash of orange in among the sparrows, a bird she had never seen before. She watched, and

studied her bird book, and decided that the new bird at her feeders was a Brambling. Highly unlikely as that seemed (as Bramblings occur only Accidentally anywhere in the United States except the Aleutians and Alaska where they occur Casually), the bird proved to be just that, a species which had been recorded only once before in Minnesota when a single individual was at a feeder in Owatonna from mid-January until 24 March



Brambling, January 1989, 333 James St., East Grand Forks, Polk County. Photo by John Stennes, courtesy of The Grand Forks Herald.

of 1984 (*The Loon* 56:79-80).

Owatonna is only 45 miles from my home, but I didn't go over to see it back in 1984 because this was before my days of birding all over Minnesota with Ray Glassel and Bob Janssen. To see the Brambling in East Grand Forks involved driving over 800 miles — and two attempts. The first attempt was thwarted by the snowstorm of 7-8 January 1989, which closed roads in northwestern Minnesota and produced record snowfalls. (The sighting of an Ivory Gull in nearby Wisconsin on Sunday the seventh, eased the pain of missing out on the Brambling.)

Fortunately for me and several other birders, the Brambling survived the storm; and so, one week later on 14 January, we undertook the pilgrimage anew. It was well worth the effort. Already sipping coffee in Angie and John's kitchen were Terry Savaloja, Jim Hanson from Eau Claire, Wisconsin and Kim Risen. Lauren and Jim Mattsson from Agassiz NWR arrived just as we did. Angie had already had a number of birders from the area, newspaper persons, and out-of-state visitors come to see "her" bird, so we added our names to her guest ledger. She had been surprised, at first, at the interest birders had — and the distances some had come — and how fast the word had spread in the birding world — but had come to take it all in stride, and to enjoy her "celebrity." The Brambling didn't come in to feed right away, and that awful thought "Did we miss it?" came to more than one mind. But no, there it was! A lovely bright orange presence among the sparrows. In size it was about the same size as the House Sparrows, but its "jizz" was of a far sleeker bird. The head was gray on the sides, lightly speckled below the eye, as the feather edges were dark. On the gray nape were two dark vertical lines at either side of the nape. It had a dark eye, and a finch-type bill. The breast and upper belly were a vibrant orange; the belly and undertail coverts were white.

In flight, it showed a prominently white rump. The tail was dark gray. The folded wing showed a dark bar, and there was a white bar in the primaries (indicating that it was a male, which Angie was reluctant to accept, as she had decided that "her" bird was a "she"). The Brambling bullied or harassed a House Sparrow while they were feeding on the ground, and gave the impression of being "schizy," or at least highly responsive to outside stimuli. We all viewed the Brambling at length, savoring the sight.

The Brambling remained at Angie's feeder until early April, coming to the feeder for over 90 days. Over 100 people observed the bird and came from as far away as Arkansas to see Angie's bird.

Having been fortunate enough to have seen the Brambling early in the day, we had time to bird our way back to the Twin Cities — through drifted and icy roads — but we saw some "good" birds. There were good-sized flocks of Snow Bunting in Polk County (but none in Norman County). There were Black-billed Magpies in both Polk and Norman. Numerous Gray Partridge were seen in the snow-laden ditches. We saw our first sizable flock of Common Redpolls, with a Merlin chasing them, at the WMA on Norman County 39. Greater Prairie Chickens were in the trees, and feeding in the fields, in remarkably plentiful numbers. We didn't see any Snowy Owls, or Northern Hawk-Owls or Northern Shrikes; nor did we see the Short-eared Owls we had recently seen in the area. But a Golden Eagle hunting was especially nice to see — as it put Bob Janssen at the 200 mark for Norman County.

800 miles doesn't seem such a long day's drive when you are seeing such wonderful birds, especially when they are "in addition to" seeing a rare Brambling for Minnesota's second record. **2918 15th Ave. S.W., Rochester, MN 55902.**



BOOK REVIEW

A GUIDE TO BIRD BEHAVIOR: VOLUME 3: by Donald W. and Lillian Q. Stokes. Little, Brown and Co., Boston. 1989; black and white illustrations, 397 pages; paper \$10.95.

This volume is the third, and apparently the last, in a series of guides to bird behavior that the authors have written over the last ten years. Each has dealt with 25 different species of North American birds. In the forward of the book, the authors explain the logic involved in the selection of species. Species chosen for the first volume were common urban birds that were easy to watch, and represented a diversity of bird groups. The second volume comprised garden and farmland birds (including many favorites suggested by fans of Vol. 1) that were also relatively easy to watch. The selection in this volume is quite different, for although some species like the Eastern Bluebird, Purple Martin, and Wood Duck are relatively common and easy to observe, either because they are very rare, breed in remote areas, or are secretive. All however, are species that the authors feel hold a great deal of interest for bird watchers. Seven are raptors; including endangered or special concern species such as the Peregrine Falcon, Bald Eagle and Osprey, as well as more common species such as the Red-tailed Hawk and Great Horned Owl. The authors have deliberately chosen to include some species such as the Eastern Screech-Owl whose behaviors are not well known, apparently to encourage their readers to help fill in the gaps in existing knowledge about these relatively common species.

The organization of this volume is similar

to earlier volumes, with some interesting additions. As with the earlier volumes, for each species there is: a behavior calendar showing when major behaviors occur; a display guide giving descriptions and contexts of behaviors; separate sections describing each of the major categories of breeding behavior (territory, courtship, nest-building, etc.); discussions of plumage; seasonal movements; and flock behavior, where relevant; and a bibliography. For each hawk species information is provided about watching it during migration, including a map showing migration routes and peak counts from various counting stations around the country. Two new appendices provide a list of bird conservation organizations, and a discussion of hawk-watching and the best places around the country to do it.

A review of a book like this one that draws on a variety of research literature and presents what is ostensibly a synthesis of it should address the completeness, factual accuracy, and interpretation of the author's work. Lacking the necessary familiarity with the available literature on any of the species myself, I turned to Bud Tordoff of the Bell Museum for his assessment of the sections dealing with American Woodcock and Peregrine Falcon, two species with which he is very familiar. In general, there were no glaring factual errors, but Tordoff pointed out instances of misplaced emphasis, as well as omissions. For example, the Stokes' indicate that participation of male peregrines in incubation and brooding is minimal. In Tordoff's experience, males appear eager to incubate, and attempt to do so at every opportunity, but are often prevented from doing so by the female. On the subject of distinguishing adults from

juveniles in the American Woodcock, the authors simply say there is no easy way to do it; they could, in a few sentences, have explained the plumage differences that are apparent on close examination.

Finally, Tordoff found the bibliography in each case lacking a major source of information on the species. Granted, the authors note that they have not attempted to include all references used in the preparation of the book, but they certainly might be expected to include the most important sources of information. The avid student of any particular species will have to work a little harder at ferreting out additional sources of information.

In conclusion, I think readers who have used and enjoyed the earlier volumes will welcome this new volume, and be disappointed to discover that this is the last in the series. The fact that experts on any species are able to find fault with the completeness and accuracy of the accounts is disappointing. It should not, however, detract from the usefulness of the book to casual students of behavior, but rather encourage them to verify the details presented by making their own observations, as the authors intend them to do. **Bonita Eliason, Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-4007.**

Unusual Goose Sightings In Spring, 1989

Raymond Glassel and Anne Marie Plunkett

The Spring of 1989 was different from perhaps any preceding spring in regard to the occurrence of Ross' Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese in Minnesota: more of these two species were seen and recorded in more counties than at any previous time in the southeastern, south and east central counties of the state. Our purpose here is to document this increase in records of their occurrence, as well as to present new information about the incidence of Ross' Geese in Minnesota.

The status of Ross' Geese is Casual everywhere in the state. In the regions under discussion here, there are historical records for the species: two were seen and photographed at Howard Lake in Wright County (*The Loon* 38:36-7); a Ross' which was found by birders in February 1983 remained over a two-year period in southern Washington County (*The Loon* 55: 84-5); [a probable intermediate bird was at Black Dog, Dakota County on 13 December 1981 (*The Loon* 54:105-111)]. On 30 September 1988, a single bird was seen at Lake of the Isles, Minneapolis (*The Loon* 60:120). By far the most common occurrence of Ross' Geese has been at Silver Lake in Rochester, Olmsted County, the most recent being this past 22 November 1988 (*The Loon* 61:50). Previous

sightings there have occurred: on 20 October 1964 through 8 January 1965 (*The Loon* 37:39); 24 March through 1 April 1983; and 24-27 November 1984. The only spring migration record for this species is that of a single bird at Sulheim's Slough in Watonwan County on 6 April 1977 (*The Loon* 49:186-7). (This record was later voted unacceptable because it was thought to be an intermediate). Other than the above mentioned records, the only other historical records for Ross' Geese in Minnesota have been in the western part of the state; neither record is for spring. (This year, 1989, there were two western spring records: on 2 April at Carey Lake in Cottonwood County when two birds were seen during an MOU Birding weekend; and a single bird seen for several days in May at Thief Lake WMA in Marshall County.)

In southeastern Minnesota, the first Ross' Goose report of the Spring of 1989 was that of Mary Jo and Gordon Dathe's sighting on 30 March of a single bird in the company of a flock of Canada Geese at Fenstermacher's Pond adjacent to the DNR managed lands just southeast of Spring Valley in Bloomfield Township, Fillmore County. This "classic" Ross' stayed in the area for just three days, but long enough for many birders to see it.

Then on 17 April 1989 at Lake Byllesby

west of Cannon Falls, a single Ross' Goose was seen on both sides of the Cannon River channel, which placed this single bird in two counties, Goodhue and Dakota.

A few days later, on 30 April 1989 three Ross' Geese were found at Rice Lake State Park in Steele and Dodge Counties. Initially, the three were seen feeding along the edge of the lake in Steele County, a first record for three Ross' Geese and in two counties! They were in the company of a mixed flock of 45 blue/white Snow Geese. (It is probably worth mention here that many birders reported greater numbers and the more frequent occurrence of Snow Geese farther east in the state than had been usual in past years, as well as a marked increase in records for both numbers and occurrence of the smaller races of the Canada Goose.)

The above mentioned records have since been accepted by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee. It was a very good year for observing Ross' Geese in southeastern Minnesota.

In the future, Minnesota birders might, however, be alert to the possibility of seeing more than one, or two, or three Ross' Geese. Daryl F. Gross, the assistant park manager at Rice Lake State Park reported the possible presence of an entire flock of Ross' Geese at the park in April. While working near the point on 12 April 1989, he reported seeing a group of Ross' come in to the lake in the company of a mixed flock of Snow Geese. They settled on the lake in a tight flock about 100 yards from the Snow Geese, and remained apart from them. He recognized the Ross' "by their voices" even before he saw them. A decoy carver of national standing, he has long been a student of the species; he has both state and federal permits for keeping waterfowl. He estimated the size of the flock as occupying "approximately 60-70 square feet"; he didn't count them as they remained an *en masse* group about 100 feet off-shore. However many geese there were, there is no confirmed record of a flock of any size of Ross' Geese in Minnesota. (Evidently, there are sufficient numbers of the species in the flyway just to our west, for Mr. Gross reports they are not excluded from being hunted there; they are protected in Minnesota.) The three Ross' seen on 30 April could have been the remnant members of this flock; they remained at the park until 2 May.

"Unusual and impressive" probably best describe the number of counties where Greater White-fronted Geese were found in the Spring of 1989 in southeastern, south and south-central Minnesota. In the western regions of the state, this species is an Uncommon but Regular spring migrant. However, these geese are Rare to Casual migrants throughout the regions of the south and east; the following chart provides data reflecting the more widespread occurrence of these geese than is usual in these regions.

DATE	COUNTY	NUMBER
24 March	Blue Earth	72
24 March	Martin	30
25 March	Watowan	26
	Anoka	1
26 March	Hennepin	1
26 March-25 April	Olmsted	16
30 March	*Winona	?
2 April	Wabasha	20
	Dakota/Goodhue	7
5 April	Sibley	15
7 April	*Meeker	16
	*Kandyohi	18
10 April	Fillmore	1
12 April	Freeborn	4&1
15 April	Washington	3
15, 23 & 27 April	Wabasha	2
17 April	Carver	9
17-18 April	Wright	5
19 April	*Mower	1
21 April	Sibley	18
26 April	Kandyohi	9
28-29 April	Steele	11
1-7 May	Winona	2
3 May	Faribault	8
6 May	Steele	1
9 May	Anoka	4
22 May	*Morrison	1
25 May	Olmsted	1

* denotes a first record for the county

The above data are mainly those of the authors with supplemental data provided by Robert B. Janssen.

The authors acknowledge the use in this article of historical data and regional boundaries found in *Birds in Minnesota* by Robert B. Janssen.

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The Fall Season

(1 August to 30 November 1988)

Don Bolduc, Steve Carlson, Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme

Foreword by Robert B. Janssen

The most prominent feature of the 1988 fall season was the continuing severe drought conditions which persisted until November.

The proof of how severe the weather conditions were is indicated by the temperature; June, July and August 1988 were the warmest three months on record in the Twin Cities with an average temperature of 75.5° F. This even surpassed the severe dry period recorded in 1933, which most thought would never be

surpassed.

Rainfall during the fall was inadequate over most of the state. This again was a continuation of the severe drought that began in the Spring of 1988. Most of the land in the state was parched and was short of normal moisture. Small sloughs were totally gone, larger sloughs and most lakes had wide muddy margins. Many lakes were just mud from one end to the other. A good example of this was

Tiger Lake, just west of Norwood in Carver County, which was one huge expanse of mud. Eared Grebes and other waterfowl had nested there the year before!

August and September were dry, hot and windy. October was the fourth coldest month on record with an average temperature only 44° and the dryness continued. November was the first month with above average precipitation in 1988, but most of it fell as snow during the month. Thus after a hot, dry summer, we started a cold, early winter. On November 5 snow fell in many areas of the state and by November 28th the temperature fell to 5° in the Twin Cities and below zero across northern Minnesota. On top of all this, the wind blew constantly. There were more windy days during the fall of 1988 than I can recall in the last 40 years. They weren't light winds either. Many days saw winds of 20 to 25 MPH and more.

Wind, drought and heat do not make for real good birding, and, as a result, the Fall of 1988 saw few real rarities and rather poor migration. Discouraging was the fact that the numbers of juvenile birds was way down, no doubt related to the drought during the summer breeding season. Banding records from a number of areas around the United States showed less than one-half the number of juveniles present during 1988 as compared to other years.

The Minnesota duck kill in 1988 was only one-half that of previous hunting seasons. The season was reduced to 30 days from the normal 40 and the bag limit was reduced from four to three — a wise move on the part of those concerned with hunting regulations.

The Minnesota bird list benefitted from one severe weather phenomenon during the fall of 1988. Hurricane Gilbert raised havoc in the Caribbean area and also when it smashed into the coast of Mexico. It then turned sharply north into Texas, eventually dying out in the mid-section of the United States in the Mississippi River Valley. Gilbert's strong winds blew Magnificent Frigatebirds into the upper Midwest. In Minnesota we had one confirmed sighting in the Minnesota River Valley in Dakota County on 1 October and a possible sighting at Lake Itasca on 22 September. There were other first state records in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio.

Other highlights of the fall migration in-

cluded a Pacific Loon in Duluth on 21 October, Ross' Geese in Minneapolis on 30 September and in Rochester on 22 November. The bird of the North Shore of Lake Superior was the King Eider in Grand Marais Harbor from 30 October to 2 November.

One of the often overlooked fall migration phenomenon in the state is the concentration of Common Mergansers on Lake Pepin. This usually occurs around the third week in November, and is truly a sight to behold when 1,000's of birds are present as in the fall of 1988.

Hawk Ridge in Duluth experienced a fair migration of hawks. August showed a better than average count, September was average with a peak count of 10,370 hawks on the 14th. The peak October day was the 21st when 731 were seen. The remainder of the fall was unimpressive, since there were no good fronts for late fall Rough-legged and eagle migrations. There were record numbers of Ospreys, American Kestrels and Merlins counted at the Ridge. Sharp-shinned, Broad-winged, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawk numbers were about average. Northern Goshawk numbers were at the low expected at this point in their ten-year cycle. Turkey Vulture numbers were about average, but the trend in Northern Harrier numbers continues downward on a long term basis. My experience in other parts of the state seems contrary to this down swing. I have seen many more Harriers than in previous years. There was only one Ferruginous Hawk report; however, Prairie Falcons were recorded in six different counties.

The only unusual shorebirds were a Long-billed Curlew in Pope County and Ruffs in Scott and Hennepin Counties.

Gulls were about as expected except for a Lesser Black-backed in Hennepin and a Black-legged Kittiwake on the Mississippi River at Hastings for a few hours.

The first Snowy Owl of the season was seen in Minneapolis on 7 November. The first report in Duluth wasn't until 13 November. A Northern Hawk-Owl was south of Mille Lacs Lake on 7 November. There were Burrowing Owl families in Traverse and Yellow Medicine Counties into September. Two Boreal Owls were banded at Hawk Ridge, one on 10/29, another on 11/10. The only Northern Saw-whet Owl reports came from the Hawk Ridge Banding Station.

Other Casual records included a Say's Phoebe in Olmsted County, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Ely, St. Louis County and a Carolina Wren at Coon Rapids, Anoka County.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is expanding its range in the state as recent records from northern and western areas of the state indicate; but it was amazing to see one in a mixed warbler flock at Blackduck Lake in Beltrami County on 19 August.

There were more Mountain Bluebirds than usual in the state this fall with records from the south, west and northwest. There was only one Townsend's Solitaire report — that in Aitkin County.

The warbler migration was average with few large waves reported. The most unusual record was that of a Louisiana Waterthrush in Kittson County on the 9th of August.

A Black-headed Grosbeak showed up at a feeder in Aitkin on 11 November and stayed for two weeks, giving many birders a nice look at this casual Minnesota species.

There are few fall records for the Henslow's Sparrow in Minnesota; however, one was carefully identified on 9 October in Houston County. Sharp-tailed sparrows, another fall rarity, were seen in Duluth and Hennepin County in September.

Smith's Longspurs are fun to see at anytime. They were at Duluth, Rothsay in Wilkin County, and Cottonwood County in late September and in October.

Last, but not least, the House Finch expansion into the state continues. They are now regular in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties and it seems just a matter of time before they are regular in most areas of the state.

PACIFIC LOON

Reported 10/21 Duluth KE; (*The Loon* 61:11).

Common Loon

Late north 11/10 Duluth DK, 11/22 Becker BK, 11/24 Beltrami AB; late south 11/19 Carver RJ, 11/20 Houston KE, 11/23 Hennepin SC.

Pied-billed Grebe

Late north 10/16 Aitkin WN, 10/23 Mille Lacs BSE, 10/24 Otter Tail DS; late south 11/8 Rice FKS, 11/14 Hennepin SC, 11/30 Olmsted JB.

Horned Grebe

Late north 11/6 Cook WP, 11/9 Pine AB, 11/22 Aitkin WN; late south 11/1 Washington WL, 11/5 Wright RJ, 11/25 Wabasha WDM.

Red-necked Grebe

Late north 9/5 Clearwater AB, 10/24 Otter Tail DS, 10/29 Lake SC; south 9/20 Hennepin DC.

Eared Grebe

Late north 8/19 Beltrami RJ, AP, 10/24 Otter Tail DS, 10/29 Lake SC; late south 8/20 McLeod AB, 9/20 Hennepin DC, 10/29 Faribault RJ.

Western Grebe

Late north 9/5 Clearwater AB, 10/21 Douglas BSE, 10/24 Otter Tail DS; late south 8/13 Yellow Medicine BSE, 9/29 Waseca AMP.

American White Pelican

Late north 8/19 Lake of the Woods AP, 8/29-9/15 Duluth m.ob., 9/3 Beltrami AB and Hubbard TS; late south 10/4 Freeborn NH and Scott AB, 10/19 Big Stone SDM.

Double-crested Cormorant

Late north 11/22 Crow Wing WN, 11/24 Beltrami AB, 11/30 Duluth KE; late south 11/19 Carver RJ, 11/20 Houston KE, 11/30 Dakota SC, ES.

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD

10/1 Dakota TT and 9/22 Itasca S.P., Clearwater Co. The Itasca State Park record is still under consideration by MORC.

American Bittern

North 8/5 St. Louis CO, 10/16 Aitkin WN; south 9/25 Scott fide AP, 9/30 Nicollet JF, 10/4 Chippewa AB; only reports.

Least Bittern

9/24 Dakota DZ, 10/8 Aitkin WN; only reports.

Great Blue Heron

Late north 11/18 Becker BK, 11/24 Otter

Tail SDM, 11/26 Norman RJ, AP; late south 11/11 Dakota DZ and Washington DS, 11/14 Hennepin SC, 11/19 Scott DZ.

Great Egret

Late north 9/25 Clay LCF, 10/4 Todd PH, 10/14 Otter Tail SC; late south 10/20 Ramsey TSo, 10/28 Washington DS, 11/19 Dakota DZ.

Little Blue Heron

8/12-13 Yellow Medicine m.ob.; only report.

Green-backed Heron

Late north 8/18 St. Louis SW/MS, 9/10 Beltrami TK, 10/8 Aitkin WN; late south 9/25 Faribault AB, 10/8 Wright RJ, 10/15 Washington TBB.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Reported mid-August **Duluth** m.ob.; late north 10/2 Norman RJ; late south 10/5 Washington DS, 10/8 Ramsey TSo, 10/10 Hennepin SC.

Tundra Swan

Early north 10/18 Duluth MS, 10/30 Becker BK; early south 10/3 Traverse AB, 10/24 Wabasha DWM; late north 11/24 Beltrami and Cass AB, 11/29 Todd PH; peak 11/19-20 Winona (13,000); late south 11/24 Houston EMF, 11/29 Winona JB.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Only report 10/14 Chippewa AB.

Snow Goose

Early north 9/20 St. Louis KE, 10/1 Otter Tail SDM; early south 9/25 Blue Earth AB, 9/30 Mower AP; late north 10/29 Lake SC, 11/4 Cook KMH; late south 11/5 McLeod RJ and Mower JM, 11/24 Olmsted BSE.

ROSS' GOOSE

9/30 Hennepin SC *et al.* (*The Loon* 60:181-182) 11/22 Rochester JB, PP (*The Loon* 61:50).

Canada Goose

Reported from 17 counties north, 30 counties south.

Wood Duck

Late north 10/9 Clay LCF, 10/22 Aitkin

WN, 11/24 Beltrami AB; late south 11/5 Meeker RJ, 11/8 Washington DS, 11/27 Ramsey RH.

Green-winged Teal

Late north 10/3 Douglas AB, 10/16 Aitkin WN, 10/20 Cook SOL; late south 11/10 Wright DO, 11/11 Nicollet JF, 11/19 Hennepin SC.

American Black Duck

Early south 8/26 Anoka JH, 9/13 Hennepin SC, 10/8 Washington DS; late north 9/30 Todd PH, 10/16 Becker SDM, 11/26 Hubbard AB.

Mallard

Reported from 24 counties north, 32 counties south.

Northern Pintail

Late north 9/3 Duluth SC, 10/9 Aitkin WN, 11/7 Crow Wing AB; late south 11/5 Meeker RJ and Washington DS, 11/6 Hennepin SC, 11/1 Nicollet JF.

Blue-winged Teal

Late north 10/8 Itasca AB, DB, 10/14 Wilkin SC, 10/16 Aitkin WN; late south 10/14 Freeborn RJ, 10/28 Freeborn AP, 10/31 Anoka SC.

Northern Shoveler

Reported north 8/14 St. Louis AB; late south 11/4 Wabasha DWM, 11/5 Houston FL, 11/19 Dakota DZ.

Gadwall

Late north 10/2 Beltrami AB, 10/5 Duluth CO; late south 11/19 Dakota DZ and Hennepin SC, 11/20 Benton and Stearns AB.

American Wigeon

Late north 10/3 Douglas AB, 10/22 Aitkin WN, 11/30 Cook KMH; late south 11/18 Dakota AP, 11/19 Hennepin SC, 11/23 Ramsey RH.

Canvasback

Late north 11/1 Beltrami AB, 10/29 Hubbard TS; late south 11/5 Meeker RJ, 11/13 Hennepin SC, 11/15 Houston FL.

Redhead

Late north 9/20 Cook WP, 10/1 Beltrami AB, **11/30** Cook KMH; late south 11/5

Meeker RJ, 11/11 Anoka DS, 11/13 Hennepin SC.

Ring-necked Duck

Late north 10/16 Aitkin WN, 11/24 Mille Lacs SC, 11/30 Cook KMH, WP; late south 11/18 Dakota AP, 11/19 Hennepin SC and Washington DS.

Greater Scaup

11/19 Carver RJ, 11/25 Lake of the Woods AB; only reports.

Lesser Scaup

Late north 11/23 Otter Tail SDM, 11/25 Lake of the Woods AB, 11/30 Cook KMH; late south 11/19 Washington DS, 11/27 Ramsey RH, 11/30 Hennepin SC, ES.

KING EIDER

10/30-11/2 Grand Marais, Cook Co. SC *et al.* (*The Loon* 61:38).

Harlequin Duck

11/20 Duluth SG, DK; only report.

Oldsquaw

10/29 Cook SC and Lake KE, 11/3 Mille Lacs KE; only reports.

Black Scoter

10/13 Duluth KE, 10/29-30, 11/5-6,24 Cook m.ob., 11/28 Hennepin SC; only reports.

Surf Scoter

10/13 Duluth KE, 10/20-23 Waseca m.ob., 10/21 Freeborn AP, 11/4-16 Ramsey m.ob., 11/26,30 Cook m.ob., only reports.

White-winged Scoter

10/25 Duluth DK, 10/29 Cook SC, KE, 11/5 Cook BSE, 11/19 Wabasha KE; only reports.

Common Goldeneye

Early south 10/28 Hennepin SC, 10/29 Wabasha BSE, 11/1 Washington WL.

Bufflehead

Early north 8/9 Kittson AB, 10/21 Douglas BSE; early south 8/9 Hennepin SC, 10/14 Chippewa AB; late north 11/24 Beltrami AB, 11/30 Cook KMH; late south 11/27 Ramsey RH, 11/30 Hennepin SC.

Hooded Merganser

Late north 10/28 Otter Tail SDM, 11/12 Cook KMH, 11/25 Lake of the Woods AB; late south 11/19 Hennepin SC, OJ and Meeker RJ (1000+), 11/27 Houston FL, 11/30 Dakota SC, ES.

Common Merganser

Early south 9/17 Cottonwood DB, 10/15 Washington TBB, 11/3 Wabasha AP, 11/29 Hennepin OJ, Peak 11/21 Wabasha, 1000+.

Red-breasted Merganser

Late north 11/13 Aitkin WN, 11/20 Crow Wing AB; late south 11/14 Washington WL, 11/25 Wabasha DWM, 11/30 Hennepin SC, ES.

Ruddy Duck

Late north 11/23 Aitkin BSE; late south 11/11 Ramsey TSo, 11/15 Houston FL, 11/30 Hennepin SC, ES.

Turkey Vulture

Hawk Ridge count: 666; late north 10/4 Cook SOL, 10/9 Hubbard HJF, 10/15 Duluth HR; late south 10/2 Goodhue DZ and Olmsted BSE, 10/3 Houston EMF, 10/11 Fillmore NAO.

Osprey

Hawk Ridge count: 279 a new high by 32, including 51 on 9/3; late north 10/19 Cass TK, 10/29 Duluth KC, 11/5 Aitkin WN; late south 10/3 Hennepin SC and Traverse AB, 11/17 Washington DS, 11/20 Ramsey TSo.

Bald Eagle

Hawk Ridge count: 261; late north 11/26 Becker AP, 11/27 St. Louis KE, 11/30 Wilkin SDM.

Northern Harrier

Hawk Ridge count: 705; late north 10/14 Wilkin SC, 10/24 Cook SOL, 11/7 Duluth HR; late south 10/28 Nicollet JF, 11/8 Cottonwood BF, 11/17 Goodhue AP.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 12,303; late north 10/2 Beltrami AB, 11/1 Duluth HR, 11/27 Clay LCF; late south 11/2 Olmsted AP, 11/21 Ramsey RJ, 11/30 Dakota JD.

Cooper's Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 91, tied 2nd highest;

late north 9/25 Clay LCF, 10/1 Beltrami AB, 10/31 Duluth HR; late south 9/30 Houston EMF, 10/18 Dodge AP, 11/1 Hennepin SC.

Northern Goshawk

Hawk Ridge count: 177; early north 8/18 Duluth HR; early south 9/5 Olmsted BSE, 9/10 Hennepin RJ.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Unusual north reports 8/18 Cass RJ, AP, 9/10, 9/27, 10/31 Duluth HR; late north 10/8 Aitkin WN, 10/10 Otter Tail SDM, 10/31 Duluth HR; late south 10/18 Dodge AP, 10/29 Winona JB 11/19 Wabasha KE.

Broad-winged Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 18,868; late north 10/1 Aitkin WN, 10/2 Duluth HR, 10/25 Clay LCF; late south 9/25 Nicollet AB, 9/27 Olmsted BSE, 10/2 Washington DS.

Swainson's Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 35 (previous high 10) including 32 on 9/9; late north 9/23 Otter Tail SDM, 9/30 Cook SOL; late south 9/10 Pope and Stevens RJ, 9/25 Martin AB, 9/29 Waseca.

Red-tailed Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 3650 reported from 10 counties north, 21 counties south.

Ferruginous Hawk

9/21 and 24 Wilkin SDM; only report.

Rough-legged Hawk

Hawk Ridge count: 268; early north 9/25 Otter Tail SDM and Duluth KE, 10/26 Cook WP; early south 10/3 Stearns AB and Wabasha JD, 10/13 Hennepin SC.

Golden Eagle

Hawk Ridge count: 26; also reported 10/30 and 11/20 Houston FL, EMF.

American Kestrel

Hawk Ridge count: 1325, a new high, including 468 on 9/3; late north 11/26 Wadena AB, 11/27 St. Louis KE, 11/30 Clay SDM.

Merlin

Hawk Ridge count: 178, a new high; early south 8/25 Cottonwood ED, 9/6 Dakota JD and Hennepin OJ, late north 11/1 Wilkin

SDM, 11/3 Duluth HR; late south 11/11 Hennepin SC, ES, 11/20 Wabasha KE.

Peregrine Falcon

Hawk Ridge count: 29, including 18 on 9/30; late north 10/13 Cook KMH, 10/15 Duluth HR, 10/23 Clay LCF; late south 9/25 Watonwan AB, 11/6 Dakota JD, 11/18 Hennepin SC.

Prairie Falcon

9/4 Clay LCF, 9/6 Hennepin OJ, 9/21-10/23 Otter Tail and Wilkin (7th consecutive year) SDM, also 10/21 Big Stone SDM, 10/26 Olmsted JB; more reports than usual.

Gray Partridge

Reported from four counties north, 15 counties south.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from nine north and 24 south counties.

Spruce Grouse

All reports: 8/14-11/11 Cook m.ob., 10/13-11/30 Lake (6) SW/MS, 11/25 Beltrami AB.

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 18 north and nine south counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

All reports: 9/21-11/23 Wilkin (max. 71) SDM, 11/20 Otter Tail SDM, 11/26 Norman (30) RJ, AP.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reported from Aitkin, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington and St. Louis Counties.

Wild Turkey

Reported from Fillmore and Houston Counties.

Virginia Rail

One report: 10/16 Lac Qui Parle AB.

Sora

All reports: Hubbard (no date) JL, 8/14-9/27 Hennepin m.ob., 8/23 Freeborn NHO, 9/5 Beltrami AB, 9/4 Ramsey RH, 9/6 Goodhue AP, 9/25 Martin AB.

Common Moorhen

One report: 8/8 Anoka (1) DS.

American Coot

Late south 10/21 Douglas BSE, 11/4 Cook KMH, 11/11 Carlton AB; late south 11/16 Wabasha DWM, 11/20 Ramsey DZ, 11/30 Hennepin m.ob.

Sandhill Crane

All reports: 8/6-10/9 Anoka RH, DS, 8/9 Kittson AB, 8/19 Lake of the Woods AP, RJ, 9/5, **Goodhue** AP, 9/21-10/28 Wilkin SDM, 10/1-16 Duluth m.ob., 10/3 Traverse AB, 11/9 Otter Tail SDM.

Black-bellied Plover

Early north 8/9 Kittson and Pennington AB, 8/28 Clay LCF; late north 10/22 Mille Lacs BSE, 11/3 Aitkin KE; one south report 10/17 Chippewa RJ, 10/26 Cottonwood AP.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Early north 8/9 Kittson AB, 8/26 Cook KMH; early south 9/2 Nicollet JF, 9/13 Hennepin SC; late north 10/13 Cook KMH, 10/22 Mille Lacs BSE; late south 9/25 Cottonwood BF, 9/26 Blue Earth and Fillmore AP, 9/30 Brown JS.

Semipalmated Plover

Late north 8/11 Polk AB, 8/18 St. Louis WP, 10/2 Beltrami AB; late south 8/22 Scott AB, 9/24 Blue Earth RJ, **10/11 Hennepin** SC, ES.

Killdeer

Late north 10/5 Crow Wing AB, 10/14 Clay SC, 11/6 Otter Tail SDM; late south 11/4 Murray JP, 11/5 Wright RJ, **11/28 Ramsey** DS.

American Avocet

All reports: 8/10 **Hennepin** (4) OJ, m.ob., 8/20 **Dakota** (7) TT, RG, 8/27 Big Stone (1) RJ.

Greater Yellowlegs

Late north 10/1 Beltrami AB, 10/31 Cook m.ob., 11/3 Aitkin KE; late south 10/28 Blue Earth JF, 11/11 Goodhue AP, 11/13 Anoka DS and Wright ES.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Late north 9/16 St. Louis TBB, 10/3 Douglas AB, **10/23 Clay** LCF; late south 10/26 Washington JD, 11/2 Olmsted AP, 11/13 Anoka DS.

Solitary Sandpiper

Late north 8/27 Traverse RJ, 8/28 Clay LCF, 9/3 Beltrami AB; late south 9/23 Hennepin ES, 9/24 Freeborn NHO, 9/25 Scott AP.

Willet

All reports: 8/9 Pennington AB, 8/11 Polk AB.

Spotted Sandpiper

Late north 8/28 Clay LCF, 9/10 St. Louis CO, 10/1 Clearwater AB; late south 9/8 Washington DS, 9/13 Hennepin AB, SC, 9/21 Dakota AP.

Upland Sandpiper

Two reports: 8/7 Clay LCF, 8/20 Clay AP.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW

10/9 Pope DK (*The Loon* 60:186).

Hudsonian Godwit

All reports: 8/19 Beltrami AP, RJ, **10/3 Traverse** (2 injured) AB.

Marbled Godwit

All reports: 8/1-3 Carver (1) SC, ES, 8/13-14 Yellow Medicine BSE, KE.

Ruddy Turnstone

One report: 9/24 Mille Lacs DB.

Red Knot

All reports: 9/3 Clearwater AB, 9/24 Minnesota Lake, **Blue Earth** and **Faribault** Co. RG and 9/28 same location WN, AP.

Sanderling

Early north 8/9 Pennington AB, 8/25 Cook KMH; early south 8/13 Lyon BSE, 8/22 Hennepin ES, SC; late north 10/2 Beltrami AB, 10/22 Aitkin BSE, WN; late south OJ, 9/24 Blue Earth RJ, 9/26 Waseca AP, 9/28 Blue Earth, Faribault WN, AP.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Late north 8/26 Cook KMH, WP, 9/4 Clay LCF, 10/3 Traverse AB; late south 9/26 Waseca AP, 9/28 Blue Earth, Faribault WN, AP, 10/13 Freeborn AP.

White-rumped Sandpiper

One report: 8/13 Hennepin OJ.

Baird's Sandpiper

Early north 8/9 Kittson AB, 8/18 Cook

KMH; early south 8/4 Hennepin SC, 8/14 Dakota JD and Lyon BSE; late north 10/2 Beltrami AB, 10/3 Traverse AB; late south 9/14 Hennepin TSo and Brown AP, 10/13 Freeborn AP.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Late north 10/29 Lake KE, 11/4 Mille Lacs AB, DB, 11/13 Aitkin WN; late south 10/16 Lac Qui Parle AB, Stearns DO and Brown JS, 10/20 Ramsey TSo, 11/5 McLeod RJ.

Dunlin

All reports: 8/14 Dakota JD, 8/25-10/31 Cook WP, m.ob., 8/26 Wabasha AP, 9/22 Duluth KE, 10/3 Traverse AB, 10/15 Fillmore AP, 10/30 Fillmore AP, RJ, 11/3 Aitkin KE, 11/4 Mille Lacs AB, DB.

Stilt Sandpiper

Early north 8/11 Kittson AB, 8/14 St. Louis AB; early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, 8/5 Nicollet JF; late north 10/3 Traverse AB and Becker RJ, 10/9 Clay LCF; late south 9/14 Hennepin TSo and Brown AP, 9/17 Fillmore AP, 9/26 Blue Earth, Faribault AP.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper

All reports: 8/4 Hennepin (1) SC, ES and Dakota (30) JD, 8/20 McLeod AB, 9/1-11 Duluth (1) KE, m.ob.

RUFF

8/9-14 French Lake, Hennepin Co. SC, *et al.* (*The Loon* 60:181), 8/21 Geis Lake, Scott Co. RG (*The Loon* 60:181).

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early north 8/7 Clay LCF, 8/9 Kittson AB; early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, 8/14 Dakota JD and Yellow Medicine BSE; late north 8/19 Beltrami RJ, 10/3 Traverse AB; late south 8/20 McLeod AB, 8/27 Big Stone RJ.

Long-billed Dowitcher

All reports: 8/15-19 Nicollet JF, 8/15 Freeborn NHO, 8/30-10/8 Wright ES, RJ, 9/25 Watonwan AB, 10/2 Beltrami AB, 10/13 Freeborn AP, 10/15 Anoka DZ and Fillmore AP.

Common Snipe

Late north 10/22 Mille Lacs BSE, 11/4 Aitkin AB, DB, 11/6 Otter Tail SDM; late south 11/13 Hennepin ES, 11/19 Pipestone JP, 11/20 Benton AB.

American Woodcock

Late north 10/7 Hubbard TBB, 10/24 Cook KMH, 10/29 Kanabec AB; late south 10/16 Fillmore NAO, 11/1 Swift DO, 11/12 Anoka DS.

Wilson's Phalarope

All reports: 8/1 Cook KMH, 8/3-9/14 Hennepin m.ob., 8/14 St. Louis AB, 8/19 Nicollet JF, 8/18 Koochiching AP, RJ, 8/20 Carver AB.

Red-necked Phalarope

All reports: 8/9 Kittson and Marshall AB, 8/26 Cook KMH, WP, 9/2-6 Hennepin OJ, SC, 9/25 Scott AB, 9/26 Faribault, Blue Earth WN, AP.

Parasitic Jaeger

All reports: 9/4-10/8 Duluth (max. 4) m.ob.

Franklin's Gull

Late north 9/16 Todd PH, 9/25 Clay LCF, 10/14 Duluth KE; late south 10/26 Steele, Waseca AP, 11/4 Murray JP, 11/10 Steele EK.

Bonaparte's Gull

Early north 8/10 Beltrami AB, 8/21 Crow Wing DB; early south 8/6 Anoka RH; late north 11/10 Duluth DK, 11/24 Aitkin AB; late south 11/14 Washington WL, 11/28 Hennepin SC; peak 10/4 Aitkin (1200+) SC.

Ring-billed Gull

Reported from 11 north and 18 south counties; late north 11/13 Aitkin WN, 11/24 Beltrami AB, 11/27 Mille Lacs DS.

Herring Gull

Reported from nine north and 12 south counties.

Thayer's Gull

All reports: 10/22 Faribault AP, RJ, 10/31-11/26 Cook (imm.) DB, KE *et al.*, 11/13 Duluth (ad.) KE.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

9/11-18 Hennepin PG *et al.* (*The Loon* 61:44-45).

Glaucous Gull

All reports: 10/30-11/30 Cook (max. 4) m.ob.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

11/8 Hastings, Dakota-Washington Co. JD., TF (*The Loon* 60:187-88).

Caspian Tern

Early south 8/26 Washington TBB, 9/2 Hennepin OJ; late north 10/1 Clearwater AB, 10/4 Aitkin ES; late south 9/25 Wright SC, 9/28 Waseca AP, 10/26 Washington JD; peak 9/18 Aitkin (500+) WN.

Common Tern

All reports: 8/18 Aitkin AP, 8/19 Lake of the Woods AP, 9/2 Clearwater AB, 9/18 Aitkin WN, 10/13 Freeborn AP.

Forster's Tern

All reports: 8/17 Hennepin SC, 8/23 Freeborn NHO, 8/31 Becker BK, 9/3 Clearwater AB, 9/4 Todd PH, 9/6 Goodhue AP, 9/10 Pope RJ, 9/18 Aitkin WN, 9/19 Blue Earth MF.

Black Tern

Late north 8/4 Todd PH, 8/11 Polk AB, 8/18 Koochiching RJ; late south 9/2 Nicollet JF, 9/3 Jackson AP, 9/7 Washington DS.

Rock Dove

Reported from 11 north and 24 south counties.

Mourning Dove

Late north 11/17 Cook SOL, 11/19 Otter Tail SDM, 11/20 Aitkin AB.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Late north 8/10 Itasca AB, 8/18 Clay LCF, 9/4 Aitkin WN; late south 8/20 Redwood AB, 9/11 Freeborn RH, 9/25 Olmsted BSE.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

All reports: 8/13 Dodge AP, RJ, 8/17 Brown JS, 8/20 Redwood AB, 8/24-30 Houston EMF, 9/5 Olmsted BSE, 9/7 Hennepin SC, 9/17 Duluth m.ob.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from Big Stone, Cottonwood, Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Hennepin, Wabasha, Waseca, Jackson, Lac Qui Parle, Murray, Nobles, Stevens and Traverse Counties.

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 14 north and 17 south counties.

Snowy Owl

All reports: 11/7 Minneapolis AB, DB, 11/13 Duluth KE, 11/23 Wilkin SDM, 11/30 Otter Tail SDM.

Northern Hawk-Owl

All reports: 11/4-8 Cook KMH, SOL, 11/7 Mille Lacs AB, DB.

Burrowing Owl

All reports: 9/9-14 Traverse (5) and Yellow Medicine (7), *fide* J. Schladweiler.

Barred Owl

Reported from six north and ten south counties.

Great Gray Owl

All reports: International Falls, Koochiching Co. (2) *fide* KE, Sax-Zim Bog, St. Louis Co. (3 locations) m.ob., 10/22 St. Louis/Koochiching Co. line *fide* KE, 10/31 Cook SOL, 11/13-23 Aitkin WN, SG.

Long-eared Owl

All reports: 9/30 Wadena AB, 10/1 Cottonwood *fide* ED, 10/3 Hennepin OJ, 10/30-11/22 Cook KE, KMH.

Short-eared Owl

All reports: 10/12 St. Louis (1) SW/MS, 10/15 Isanti (1) DS, 10/16 Stearns DO, 11/1 Wilkin SDM, 11/6 Cook SOL, 11/20 Duluth (1) TW, 11/26 Norman (2) AP.

Boreal Owl

All reports: 10/29 and 11/10 Duluth (2 banded at Hawk Ridge) KE, 11/29 Cook KMH.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Only reports were from Hawk Ridge Banding Station.

Common Nighthawk

Late north 9/10 Aitkin WN, 10/9 Otter Tail SDM, late south 10/5 Hennepin SC, 10/7 Dakota JD, 10/12 Le Sueur HJC; peak 8/14 Duluth (5994) KC.

Whip-poor-will

All reports: 8/1-9/7 Houston EMF, 8/17 Cook SOL, 9/4 Clay LCF.

Chimney Swift

Late north 8/25 Clay LCF, 9/4 Todd PH and Aitkin WN; late south 9/15 Ramsey RH, 9/21 Brown JS, 10/8 Hennepin SC.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Late north 9/18 Koochiching GM, 9/19 Becker BK, 9/20 Cook SOL; late south 9/18 Dodge AP, 9/24 Cottonwood BF, 10/4 Dakota JD.

Belted Kingfisher

Late north 10/4 Aitkin SC, ES and St. Louis, 10/21 Crow Wing BSE, 10/25 Clay LCF.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Late north 9/11 Aitkin WN, 9/21 Wilkin SDM, 10/7 Becker BK; also reported from 18 south counties.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from seven north and 25 south counties; late north 11/20 Lake SW/MS, 11/22 Aitkin WN, 11/30 Becker BK.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Late north 10/1 Marshall AB and Clay LCF, 10/6 St. Louis, 10/7 Cook KMH; late south 10/15 Houston EMF, 11/12 Stearns JMa, 11/21 Dakota JD.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 22 north and 31 south counties.

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 22 north and 28 south counties.

Black-backed Woodpecker

All reports: 8/13 Cass JL, 8/27-28 Hubbard HJF, 9/4 Beltrami AB, 9/18 St. Louis DB, AB, 11/5,7,18 Lake SW/MS, 11/18 Duluth DB.

Northern Flicker

Reported from eleven north and 21 south counties; late north 10/1 Clearwater AB, 10/9 Clay LCF and Aitkin WN, 10/19 Cook KMH.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 23 north and 18 south counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 8/8 Hennepin SC, ES, 8/13 Lyon KE, Mower RJ, Brown JS; late north 9/2 Cook KMH, 9/7 Otter Tail SDM; late south 9/10 Olmsted BSE, 9/17 Fillmore NAO, 9/22 Hennepin SC.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Late north 9/10 Wadena DB, 9/11 Clay LCF, 9/20 Todd PH; late south 9/29 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Olmsted BSE, 10/6 Mower AP.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 8/8 Hennepin SC, ES, 8/13 Mower RJ, 8/20 Murray AB; late north 8/20 Polk RJ; late south 8/30 Hennepin SC, 9/4 Olmsted BSE, 9/5 Hennepin RH, Wabasha AP.

Alder Flycatcher

All reports: 8/5 Hennepin DB, 8/13 Brown JS, 8/14 Carlton AB, 8/18 Crow Wing RJ, 8/21 Brown JS, 8/24 Wabasha AP, 8/27 Clay LCF, 8/30 Goodhue AP.

Willow Flycatcher

Only north report 8/9 Kittson AB; early south 8/9 Hennepin SC, ES; late south 9/10 Houston AP, 9/23 Cottonwood BF, 9/26 Houston EMF.

Least Flycatcher

Late north 8/25 Clay LCF, 9/14 Cook KMH; late south 9/22 Fillmore NAO, 9/25 Cottonwood BF, Houston EMF, Brown JS, 9/26 Hennepin SC.

Eastern Phoebe

Late north 9/13 Todd PH, 9/25 Clay LCF, 10/1 Clearwater AB; late south 10/15 Houston EMF, 10/16 Dodge, 10/18 Hennepin DC.

SAY'S PHOEBE

9/26 Olmsted JB (*The Loon* 60:180)

Great Crested Flycatcher

Late north 9/18 Clay LCF, 10/6 Cook KMH, 10/29 Lake KE; late south 9/6 Goodhue AP, 9/5 Olmsted BSE, Washington DS, 9/22 Fillmore NAO.

Western Kingbird

Late north 8/9 Kittson, Marshall and Red Lake AB, 8/23 Clay LCF, 9/7-9 Duluth *vide* KE; late south 8/13 Lincoln BSE, 8/23 Mur- ray ND, 9/10 Olmsted JB.

Eastern Kingbird

Late north 9/2 Wadena AB, 9/8 Clay LCF, 9/18 Todd PH; late south 9/6 Hennepin AB, 9/13 Rock JP, 10/1 Olmsted BSE, Goodhue AP.

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER

8/2-8 Ely, St. Louis Co. Z. Tefft *et al.* (*The Loon* 60:179).

Horned Lark

Reported from four north and 18 south counties; late north 10/10 Cook WP, 11/2 St. Louis SS, 11/20 Clay LCF.

Purple Martin

Late north 9/3 Clay LCF, 9/29 Todd PH; late south 9/2 Hennepin SC, 9/5 Olmsted BSE, 9/15 Cottonwood BF.

Tree Swallow

Late north 9/11 Clay LCF, 9/30 Todd PH; late south Houston EMF, 10/8 Wright RJ, 10/13 Freeborn AP, 10/14 Chippewa AB.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Late north 9/15 Todd PH, 9/25 Clay LCF; late south 9/17 Brown JS, 9/25 Blue Earth AB, 10/5 Hennepin SC.

Bank Swallow

Late north 8/22 Becker BK, 9/10 Todd PH; late south 9/2 Nicollet JF, 9/10 Stevens RJ, 10/1 Hennepin TSo, Goodhue AP.

Cliff Swallow

Late north 9/2 Wadena AB, 9/10 Becker BK; late south Ramsey RH, 9/7 Hennepin SC, 9/21 Dakota, Goodhue AP, 9/25 Watonwan AB.

Barn Swallow

Late north 9/18 St. Louis AB, 9/20 Lake WL, 10/1 Otter Tail RJ; late south Ramsey RH, 10/14 Chippewa AB, 10/15 Fillmore AP, 10/16 Dodge AP.

Gray Jay

Reported from eleven north counties.

Blue Jay

Reported from 20 north and 30 south counties; peak 9/14 Duluth 2024.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported throughout the period from Ait-

kin, Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Clearwater, Itasca, Kittson, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Norman, Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties.

American Crow

Reported from 14 north and 32 south counties.

Common Raven

Reported from 17 north counties.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 24 north and 31 south counties.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from Aitkin, Cook, Lake and St. Louis Counties.

Tufted Titmouse

All reports: 8/11, 11/30 Houston EMF, 10/15, 18 Olmsted BSE, 10/19 Wabasha DWM, 11/6 Anoka DS, 11/20 Houston KE, 9/28-11/30 Olmsted AP.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from ten north and nine south counties — a five year low. Early south 8/30 Dakota JD, 9/4 Brown JS; late south 9/10 Hennepin DZ, 9/19 Washington WL.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 26 north and 31 south counties — more than normal.

Brown Creeper

Reported from 16 north and 17 south counties late north 11/12 Pine AB, 11/25 St. Louis.

CAROLINA WREN

10/29-11/9 Coon Rapids, Anoka Co., GP *et al.* (*The Loon* 60:188).

House Wren

Late north 9/24 Clay LCF, 10/1 Otter Tail RJ; late south 10/8 Murray ND, Hennepin ES, 10/9 Brown JS, 10/14 Olmsted BSE.

Winter Wren

Early south 9/5 Hennepin SC; late north 10/5 Lake SW/MS, 10/6 Itasca AB, Cook KMH; late south 10/14 Goodhue AP, 10/16 Fillmore NAO, 10/18 Hennepin SC.

Sedge Wren

Late north 8/22 Becker BK, 9/21 Wilkin

SDM; late south 9/17 Mower AP, 9/27 Hennepin ES, 10/8 Anoka DS.

Marsh Wren

Late north 9/30 Todd PH, 10/2 Mahnomen RJ; late south 9/29 Blue Earth, Waseca, Faribault AP, 10/8 Hennepin SC, 10/9 Anoka DS.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early south 9/23 Hennepin SC, 9/27 Houston EMF, Hennepin OJ; late north 11/16 St. Louis, 11/18 Cook KMH, 11/25 Marshall AB; late south 11/19 Murray ND, Houston EMF.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 8/20 Anoka DS, 8/24 Freeborn NHO, 8/26 Hennepin OJ; Late north 10/17 Clay LCF, 10/29 Duluth KE, 10/30 Cook SC; late south 10/21 Washington WL, 10/22 Fillmore NAO, 10/27 Sherburne DO.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

North reports: 8/6 Crow Wing RJ, 8/19 Beltrami RJ, 10/3 Todd PH; late south 9/10 Stevens RJ, Brown JS, 9/12 Hennepin SC, 9/13 Houston EMF.

Eastern Bluebird

Late north 10/16 Aitkin WN, 11/5 Cook BSE and m.ob., 11/11 Duluth KE; late south 10/30 Mower AP, 11/4 Murray JP, 11/13 Washington TBB.

Mountain Bluebird

All reports: 9/19 Blue Earth MF, 10/1 Wilkin SDM, 10/27 St. Louis B. Tefft, SS, 10/30-11/2 Cook (3) KE *et al.*

Townsend's Solitaire

10/4 Aitkin SC, ES.

Veery

All reports: 8/5 Becker BK, 8/11 Cook SOL, 8/28 Scott AB, 8/29 Hennepin SC, 8/31 Fillmore NAO, 9/2 Freeborn NHO, Anoka DS, 9/4 Clearwater AB.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Early north 8/27 Clay LCF, 9/5 Cook KMH, St. Louis DZ; early south 9/4 Hennepin ES, 9/6 Ramsey TSo, 9/8 Freeborn NHO; late north 9/23 Itasca DB, 10/2 St. Louis, 10/29 Kanabec DB; late south 10/4 Hennepin DC.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 8/24 Hennepin SC, 8/28 Olmsted BSE; late north 9/11 St. Louis AB, 9/16 Todd PH, 9/20 Clay LCF, Cook KMH; late south 9/27 Houston EMF, 10/9 Brown JS, 10/14 Olmsted BSE.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 8/6 Anoka GP, 9/1 Houston EMF, 9/25 Olmsted BSE; late north 10/6 Clay LCF, 10/8 Itasca AB, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 10/13 Brown JS, 10/15 Houston EMF, 10/18 Hennepin SC.

Wood Thrush

All reports: 8/20 Norman AP, 8/31 Fillmore NAO, 9/1 Hennepin SC, 9/7 Scott AP, 10/2 Isanti DS, 10/9 Brown JS.

American Robin

Reported from 14 north and 26 south counties; late north 11/23 Wilkin SDM, 11/24 Cook KMH, 11/25 Roseau AB; peak 10/1 Duluth (62,700).

Varied Thrush

All reports: 11/6, 22-30 Lake SW/MS, 11/22 Hennepin OJ, 11/25 Le Sueur JF, 11/25 Itasca RJ, AP.

Gray Catbird

Late north 9/11 St. Louis AB, 9/18 Clay LCF, 9/29 Todd PH; late south 9/30 Houston EMF, Nicollet JF, 10/1 Hennepin OJ, TSo, 10/2 Olmsted BSE, Ramsey RH, Fillmore NAO.

Northern Mockingbird

Only report: 11/4-12/5 Beltrami ES.

Brown Thrasher

Late north 9/22 Clay LCF, 10/4 Lake SW/MS, 11/13 Aitkin WN; late south 9/27 Ramsey RH, 10/1 Cottonwood BF, 11/8 Hennepin ES.

Water Pipit

Early north 9/4 Duluth KE, Clearwater AB, 9/6 Cook KMH; early south 9/25 Blue Earth AB; late north 10/4 Mille Lacs SC, Aitkin ES, Lake SW/MS; late south 10/11 Hennepin SC, ES, 10/22 Faribault RJ, 10/23 Waseca AP.

Bohemian Waxwing

Early north 10/5 Duluth KE, 10/6 Cook KMH, 10/24 Aitkin WN; only south report

11/6 Olmsted BSE.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 11 north and 18 south counties; late north 10/1 Clearwater AB, 10/6 Koochiching GM, 11/26 Norman RJ, AP, peak 9/8-9 LPS, Duluth 4967.

Northern Shrike

Early north 10/6 Lake SW/MS, Duluth KE, 10/8 Aitkin WN, 10/13 Clay LCF; early south 10/6 Mower JM, 10/14 Chippewa AB, 10/19 Fillmore AP.

Loggerhead Shrike

Only report: 8/4 Murray ND.

European Starling

Reported from 17 north and 23 south counties.

Solitary Vireo

Early south 8/20 Houston EMF, 8/25 Anoka JH, 8/26 Freeborn NHO; late north 9/18 Clay LCF, 9/22 Lake WL, 10/16 Cook KMH; late south 9/30 Olmsted JB, Houston EMF, 10/2 Fillmore NAO, 10/7 Hennepin SC.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Late north 8/12 Clearwater AB, 8/16 Duluth KE, 8/27 Traverse RJ; late south 9/9-10 Houston AP, 9/21 Hennepin ES, 9/27 Houston EMF.

Warbling Vireo

Late north 8/18 Koochiching RJ, 9/6 Todd PH; late south 9/17 Brown JS, 9/21 Hennepin SC, 9/25 Olmsted BSE.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 8/11 Blue Earth MF, 8/22 Olmsted BSE; late north 9/3 Clearwater AB, 9/17 Cook KMH; late south 9/10 Hennepin DZ, 9/17 Olmsted BSE, Brown JS.

Red-eyed Vireo

Late north 9/3 Clearwater AB, 9/4 Lake DZ, 9/20 Clay LCF, 9/21 Cook KMH; late south 9/21 Hennepin SC, 9/22 Fillmore NAO, 9/27 Houston EMF.

Blue-winged Warbler

All reports: 8/1, 9/1 Fillmore NAO, 8/2, 8/30 Houston EMF, 8/6 Crow Wing RJ, 8/13

Dodge AP, RJ, 8/24 Wabasha AP, 8/27 Olmsted BSE.

Golden-winged Warbler

Late north 9/3 Duluth SC; late south 9/1 Fillmore NAO, 9/15 Cottonwood BF, 9/20 Hennepin SC.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, ES, 8/5 Houston EMF; late north 10/1 Cook KMH, 10/3 Traverse and Douglas AB; late south 10/3 Fillmore NAO, 10/7 Hennepin SC, 10/15 Houston EMF.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early north 8/19 Lake of the Woods RJ, 8/25 Clay LCF; early south 8/8 McLeod RJ, 9/6 Wabasha DWM; late north 10/9 Clay LCF, 10/11 Cook KMH, 10/15 Duluth KE; late south 10/14 Olmsted BSE, 10/15 Houston EMF, 10/16 Fillmore NAO.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, Houston EMF, 8/6 Olmsted BSE; late north 9/25 Clay LCF, 10/4 Aitkin SC, ES, 10/13 Cook KMH; late south 10/6 Fillmore NAO, 10/9 Houston EMF, 10/16 Hennepin SC.

Northern Parula

Early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, 8/20 Redwood AB; late north 9/1 Cook KMH, 9/4 Lake DZ; late south 9/17 Fillmore NAO, 9/19 Goodhue AP, 9/29 Hennepin SC.

Yellow Warbler

Late north 9/4 Beltrami AB, 9/12 Todd PH, 10/16 St. Louis TBB; late south 9/5 Goodhue AP, 9/10 Brown JS, 9/20 Hennepin SC.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Late north 9/3 Clearwater AB, 9/4 Lake DZ, 9/20 Clay LCF; late south 9/25 Wabasha AP, 9/29 Hennepin SC, 10/1 Fillmore NAO.

Magnolia Warbler

Late north 9/18 Aitkin RJ, 9/26 Cook KMH, 10/1 Wilkin RJ; late south 9/25 Blue Earth AB, 9/30 Hennepin SC, ES, 10/2 Houston EMF.

Cape May Warbler

Early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, 8/20 Redwood AB; late north 9/4 Lake DZ, 9/10 Bel-

trami TK, 9/21 Cook KMH; late south 9/23 Hennepin SC, 9/24 Olmsted BSE.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

All reports: 8/14 Hennepin DZ, 8/18 Aitkin AP, RJ, 8/28 Olmsted BSE, 9/9 Murray ND, 9/5-20 Hennepin (five individuals) SC, 9/21 Washington WL.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, 8/18 Freeborn NHO; late north 10/16 St. Louis TBB, 10/18 Lake SW/MS, 11/3 Aitkin KE; late south 10/29 Winona BSE, 11/7 Fillmore NAO, 11/13 Houston FL.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 8/19 Nicollet JF, 8/20 Redwood AB, 8/25 Houston EMF, Freeborn NHO; late north 9/21 Cook KMH, 10/15 Duluth KE; late south 9/25 Olmsted BSE, 9/26 Hennepin SC, Houston EMF, 9/27 Fillmore NAO.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 8/9 Hennepin SC, OJ, ES, 8/14 Brown JS, 8/15 Houston EMF; late north 9/10 Beltrami TK, 9/11 Clay LCF, 10/16 St. Louis TBB; late south 9/8 Freeborn NHO, 9/12 Houston EMF, 9/20 Hennepin SC.

Pine Warbler

Early south 8/13 Lyon BSE, KE, 8/19 Houston EMF; late north 9/14 Beltrami AB, 10/30 Cook KE; late south 9/11 Olmsted BSE, 9/16 Houston EMF, 9/21 Hennepin ES.

Palm Warbler

Early south 8/25 Hennepin OJ; late north 10/12 Cook KMH, 10/13 Clay LCF, 10/16 St. Louis TBB; late south 10/2 Goodhue DZ, 10/13 Hennepin SC.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, 8/13 Cottonwood BF; late north 9/11 Cook KMH, 10/8 Aitkin WN; late south 9/21 Dakota JD, 9/25 Blue Earth AB, 10/7 Hennepin SC.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early north 8/25 Clay LCF, 9/3 Beltrami AB, Lake DZ; early south 8/14 Brown JS, 8/19 Nicollet JF, Hennepin SC; late north 9/11 St. Louis AB, 10/7 Cook KMH; late south 9/20 Brown JS, 9/30 Olmsted JB, 10/5 Hennepin SC.

Black-and-white Warbler

Late north 9/14 Cook KMH, 9/18 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, 10/16 Lake fide KE; late south 9/23 Hennepin DB, 9/25 Blue Earth AB, 10/1 Brown JS.

American Redstart

Late north 9/20 Cook KMH, 9/24 Clay LCF, 10/16 St. Louis TBB; late south 9/18 Fillmore NAO, 9/22 Houston EMF, 9/25 Blue Earth AB.

Prothonotary Warbler

Late south 8/1 Hennepin SC, 8/31 Olmsted JB.

Ovenbird

Late north 9/4 Beltrami AB, Lake DZ, 9/9 Cook KMH, 9/20 Clay LCF; late south 9/17 Fillmore NAO, 9/20 Hennepin DB, 9/23 Hennepin SC.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 8/1 Hennepin SC, 8/8 Fillmore NAO, 8/17 Brown JS; late north 9/3 Beltrami AB, 9/10 Cook KMH, 9/11 Clay LCF; late south 9/20 Hennepin DB, 9/22 Hennepin ES, 9/29 Hennepin SC.

Kentucky Warbler

One report: 8/20 Dakota TT. Only two other fall reports of this species.

Louisiana Waterthrush

8/9 Kittson AB (*The Loon* 61:46-47).

Connecticut Warbler

Late north 9/3 Clearwater AB; late south 8/30 Goodhue AP, 8/31 Fillmore NAO, 9/5 Hennepin SC.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 8/15 Hennepin SC, 8/18 Brown JS, 8/20 Hennepin ES; late north 8/13 Clay LCF; late south 9/10 Stevens RJ, 9/14 Hennepin SC, 9/30 Dakota JD.

Common Yellowthroat

Late north 10/1 Clearwater AB, 10/2 Clay LCF, 10/16 St. Louis TBB; late south 9/30 Olmsted JB, Pipestone JP, Ramsey RH, 10/1 Brown JS, 10/8 Hennepin SC.

Hooded Warbler

One report: 8/13 Houston EMF.

Wilson's Warbler

Early north 8/9 Kittson AB, 8/13 Clay LCF, 8/18 Crow Wing AP; early south 8/14 Brown JS, 8/18 Hennepin SC, 8/19 Hennepin DB, Nicollet JF; late north 8/26 Cook KMH, 9/3 Clearwater AB and Jackson AP 9/17 Clay LCF; late south 9/11 Olmsted BSE, 9/20 Brown JS, 9/23 Hennepin SC, Murray ND.

Canada Warbler

Early south 8/6 Houston EMF, 8/8 Hennepin SC, ES, 8/14 Brown JS; late north 9/4 Lake DZ, 9/23 Clay LCF; late south 9/10 Stevens RJ, 9/11 Hennepin SC, 9/25 Blue Earth AB.

Scarlet Tanager

Late north 9/2 St. Louis SS, 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/18 Clay LCF; late south 9/11 Olmsted BSE, 9/15 Wright ES, 9/20 Hennepin SC.

Northern Cardinal

Reported from Aitkin, Cook, Otter Tail and St. Louis Counties north and from eighteen counties south.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Late north 9/10 Aitkin WN, 9/18 St. Louis AB, 10/21 Duluth KE; late south 10/9 Houston AP, 10/19 Mower AP, 11/30 Winona *vide* RJ.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

11/11-26 Aitkin, Aitkin Co. m.ob. (*The Loon* 61:47-48).

Blue Grosbeak

Two reports: 8/8 Nobles ND, 8/21 Murray ND.

Indigo Bunting

Late north 9/4 Aitkin WN, 9/18 Clay LCF; late south 9/25 Blue Earth AB, 9/27 Houston EMF, 10/1 Hennepin SC.

Dickcissel

Late north 8/11 Pennington AB; late south 8/13 Dodge AP, RJ, 8/14 Wabasha AP, 8/20 Yellow Medicine AB.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Late north 9/22 Clay LCF, 9/24 Otter Tail SDM, 10/16 St. Louis TBB; late south 10/6 Fillmore NAO, 10/9 Houston EMF, 11/16 Cottonwood BF.

American Tree Sparrow

Early north 9/26 Cook KMH, 9/29 Itasca AB, 10/4 St. Louis; early south 9/30 Pipestone JP, 10/11 Hennepin SC, OJ, 10/12 Olmsted BSE.

Chipping Sparrow

Late north 10/7 Cook KMH, 10/8 Aitkin WN, 10/9 Clay LCF; late south 10/12 Hennepin OJ, 10/15 Houston EMF, 10/21 Pipestone JP.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Late north 9/5 St. Louis DZ, 9/21 Wilkin SDM, 10/1 Beltrami AB; late south 10/1 Goodhue AP, 10/3 Traverse AB, 10/8 Hennepin OJ.

Field Sparrow

Late north 9/17 Duluth KE, 10/3 Douglas AB; late south 10/15 Houston EMF, 10/16 Fillmore NAO, 10/18 Dodge AP.

Vesper Sparrow

Late north 10/2 Beltrami AB, 10/3 Norman RJ, 10/9 Clay LCF; late south 10/14 Pipestone JP, 10/16 Dodge AP, Olmsted JB.

Lark Sparrow

Late north 8/9 Marshall AB, 8/22 Clay LCF, 10/10 Cook KMH; late south 9/19 Nicollet JF, 8/25 Cottonwood ED.

Savannah Sparrow

Late north 10/14 Wilkin SC, 10/21 Douglas BSE, 10/23 Clay LCF; late south 10/20 Hennepin OJ, 10/27 Mower AP, 10/30 Houston RJ.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Late south 8/13 Lyon KE.

Henslow's Sparrow

Late south 10/9 Houston AP (*The Loon* 61:42).

LeConte's Sparrow

Late north 10/2 Wilkin SDM, 10/5 Otter Tail SDM, 10/14 Wilkin SC; late south 9/25 Watonwan AB, 10/1 Hennepin SC, 10/8 Mower AP.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Three reports: **Duluth** MH *et al.*, 9/24 **Duluth** PB, KE *et al.*; 9/5-6 Hennepin GP, m.ob.

Fox Sparrow

Early north 9/23 Cook KMH, 9/24 Otter Tail SDM, 9/27 Koochiching GM; early south 9/16 Nicollet JF, 9/21 Hennepin ES, 9/28 Hennepin OJ; late north 11/4 Cook KMH, 11/6 St. Louis SS, 11/9 Wilkin SDM; late south 11/8 Hennepin DZ, 11/17 Wabasha WDM, 11/23 Hennepin SC.

Song Sparrow

Late north 10/18 Cook KMH, 10/29 Aitkin WN, 10/31 Cook DB, SOL.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 8/24 Wabasha AP, 9/1 Houston EMF, 9/4 Hennepin OJ; late north 10/1 Otter Tail RJ, 10/5 Cook KMH, Itasca AB, 10/14 Wilkin SC; late south 10/15 Hennepin OJ, 10/16 Lac Qui Parle AB, Olmsted JB, 10/19 Hennepin SC, Mower AP.

Swamp Sparrow

Late north 10/10 Cook WP, 10/16 St. Louis TBB, 11/8 Cook KMH; late south 10/19 Mower AP, 10/21 Steele AP, 10/26 Hennepin SC.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 8/18 Brown JS, 8/19 Brown AP; 8/25 Hennepin OJ, late north 11/18 Duluth KE, 11/24 Aitkin AB, SC, 11/25 Aitkin WN, RJ; late south 11/6 Cottonwood BF, 11/8 Hennepin SC, 11/12 Fillmore NAO.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early north 9/4 Duluth KE, 9/15 Koochiching GM, 9/21 Wilkin SDM; early south 9/9 Washington DS, 9/16 Hennepin SC, 9/24 Washington WL; late north 10/18 Cook KMH, 11/11 Duluth KE, 11/16 Cook WP; late south 10/16 Olmsted JB, 10/22 Fillmore NAO, 10/26 Hennepin OJ.

Harris' Sparrow

Early north 9/21 Wilkin SDM, 9/24 Clay LCF, Koochiching GM, 9/26 St. Louis SW & MS; early south 9/27 Hennepin OJ, Murray ND, 9/30 Olmsted JB, Pipestone JP, 10/1 Hennepin SC, Lac Qui Parle FE; late north 10/29 Wilkin SDM, 11/24 Aitkin AB, 11/25 Aitkin AP, RJ, WN; late south 10/28 Nicollet JF, 11/8 Cottonwood BF, 11/11 Murray ND.

Dark-eyed Junco

Early south 9/9 Anoka SC, 9/10 Stevens

RJ, 9/22 Olmsted JB.

Lapland Longspur

Early north 9/5 Lake DZ, 9/14 Cook WP, 9/16 Cook KMH; early south 9/24 Hennepin OJ, 10/1 Hennepin SC, 10/3 Traverse AB.

Smith's Longspur

9/23 Duluth KE, 10/14 Rothsay WMA, Wilkin Co. SC; 10/20-26 Jeffers Petroglyphs, Cottonwood Co. m.ob.; all reports.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

One report 8/20 Clay AP, RJ, RG.

Snow Bunting

Early north 10/4 Duluth KE, 10/10 Kittson TR, 10/11 Cook KMH; early south 10/14 Wabasha AP, 10/25 Hennepin SC, 10/26 Blue Earth AP.

Bobolink

Late north 9/4 Clay LCF, 9/14 St. Louis AB, 10/3 Duluth KE; late south 9/17 Hennepin TSo, 9/29 Faribault RJ, 10/9 Winona and Houston AP.

Red-winged Blackbird

Late north 11/13 Aitkin WN, 11/24 Otter Tail SDM, 11/25 Roseau AB.

Eastern Meadowlark

Late north 9/25 Aitkin WN, 10/5 Itasca AB.

Western Meadowlark

Late north 10/14 Wilkin SC, 10/18 Clay LCF, 10/23 Aitkin WN.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Late north 8/8 Itasca RJ, 8/9 Marshall AB, 8/14 Clay LCF; late south 9/6 Hennepin SC, 10/3 Traverse AB, 10/15 Cottonwood BF.

Rusty Blackbird

Early north 10/1 Clearwater AB, 10/8 Itasca AB; early south 9/15 Hennepin DB, 9/25 Hennepin SC, 9/29 Blue Earth AP; late north 10/28 Wilkin SDM, 10/29 Hubbard HJF, 11/11 Clay LCF; late south 11/11 Anoka DS, 11/12 Olmsted BSE, 11/17 Dakota JD.

Brewer's Blackbird

Late north 10/16 St. Louis TBB, 10/23 Clay LCF, 11/13 Aitkin WN; late south 10/26 Waseca AP, 10/28 Nicollet JF, 11/2 Goodhue AP.

Common Grackle

Late north 11/25 Roseau AB, 11/26 Norman AP, RJ, 11/30 Hubbard HJF, Otter Tail SDM.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Late north 8/8 Itasca AB, 8/16 Clay LCF 8/20 Clay AP; late south 10/22 Faribault RJ, 10/23 Steele and Waseca AP, 10/26 Swift DO.

Orchard Oriole

Late north 8/18 Clay LCF; late south 8/13 Yellow Medicine KE, 8/25 Houston EMF, 8/29 Goodhue AP.

Northern Oriole

Late north 8/20 Norman, Polk AP, RJ, 8/26 Clay LCF, 9/4 Aitkin WN, Becker BK; late south 9/7 Wabasha WDM, 9/8 Freeborn NH, 9/11 Hennepin SC.

Pine Grosbeak

Early north 10/11 Cook KMH, 10/26 Duluth *fide* KE, 10/29 Lake SC.

Purple Finch

Reported from 12 counties north and 16 counties south.

House Finch

10/22 Dakota JD, plus many reports from the Twin Cities where the species is now regular.

Red Crossbill

Early north 8/14 Lake SW&MS, 9/17 Duluth KE, 11/6 Itasca AB; one report south 8/21 Rice FKS.

White-winged Crossbill

Early north 10/2 Duluth KE, 11/9 Cook WP.

Common Redpoll

Early north 10/4 Duluth *fide* KE, 10/29 Cook SOL, 11/5 Aitkin WN, Cook BSE, WP; early south 11/6 Dakota JD, 11/14 Washington WL, 11/19 Blue Earth RJ.

Pine Siskin

Reported from 13 counties north and nine counties south.

American Goldfinch

Reported from 13 counties north and 26 counties south.

Evening Grosbeak

Reported from 13 counties north; one report south 8/1 Washington *fide* RJ.

House Sparrow

Reported from 16 counties north and 23 counties south.

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KEY TO THE FALL SEASON

SPECIES — names in bold face capitals — indicate a casual or accidental fall record (**ROSS' GOOSE**).

Counties and/or **Dates** in bold face capitals and lower case — indicate an unusual fall location or date (**Hennepin — 10/26**).

BIRD ART. The March-April issue of the magazine *Wildlife Art News/The International Magazine of Wildlife Art* carries Gus Swanson's article about British bird artist Sir Peter Scott with several color plates of Scott's paintings. If there are MOU members interested in wildlife art who did not see this magazine, Gus would be glad to send you a copy. Send him a self-addressed 9x12" envelope with \$1.25 stamped. His address 1020 E. 17th St. #35, Minneapolis, MN 55404.

Two Herons and Some Other Birds

Jim Williams

It's seven o'clock in the morning.

If you're even semi-serious about this birding game, it is seven a.m. much more often for you than for other people, like bowlers. In fact, what seven in the morning means for birders is that you have been alert and active for several hours already. Seven a.m. is late.

I am alert. But I am not active. I am sitting in my van, parked on the wrong side of the road along a pond in deepest Bloomington. I have been here for about 90 minutes. I know, I know, I should have been here earlier, but the directions I received for this place took high interpretations before they made complete sense. I took some wrong turns.

What I am doing, elbow on armrest, chin on fist, is waiting for the elusive Little Blue Heron to come marching along. He is in the weeds somewhere out there, probably asleep.

A car drives by. It is the man delivering the morning paper. He gets up at a sane hour, I see. Must be a bowler. I wait and watch. Another car cruises slowly past. The driver parks it some distance behind me. He gets out and strolls my way. He comes around the front of the van, stops just at the left headlight, and leans slightly forward so he can look me in the eye.

My head sort of hangs out of the window, supported by my fist.

"Have you seen it?" he asks.

It's like an opening scene in a low-budget movie. No introductions. No salutations. Just this stark question: "Have you seen it?"

"No," I say.

"It was here yesterday," he says.

"Yah," I respond, "that's what the tape said."

"Interested in Grasshopper Sparrows?" he asks.

"Yes."

He tells me where the sparrows are, not two minutes from this heron-less pond. I find the sparrows. They go down on my 1989 list as number 200. Good news, bad news: they get the heron's number.

This other guy sees the Little Blue yesterday. I get up at 4:30 to see a Grasshopper Sparrow. Oh, well. I drive back toward the

pond. It's 8:30 now, almost time for lunch, but I will try for this heron one more time, a quick drive-by.

And there it is! Thirty feet from the road, right where I was parked, high-stepping through the shallows as bold as a barnyard rooster! It's number 201.

★★★★★

I have another heron story.

This is the first Saturday in May, a wet day. I sleep in. I admit to no big birding plans. While waiting for my coffee to cool, I make the usual hot-line call. Tricolored Heron alert! Change of plans! Out the door!

I wheel around the corner on Old Cedar Avenue, onto the bridge approach road. Two cars are parked illegally at the curb just ahead of me. (Birders should have special license plates to warn other drivers that the car ahead of them sporadically will go slow, stop suddenly, and park illegally.) I park illegally just behind the nearest car. Four people and two spotting scopes on tripods stand on the shoulder opposite. I roll down my window. Before I can speak a woman asks, "Do you want to see the Tricolored Heron?"

Some people would ask a guy, "How did she know that?" It is a foolish question.

Out of the van, take five steps, peer into the scope, see the heron.

Bang, bang. That's it. Life bird.

I hang around for a while and make a nice list of birds for May 6. Then I go home and finish my coffee. Jude, the woman to whom I am married, asks what I saw. I tell her the heron story.

Jude has her own life list. It is called "Birds I Have Seen After Nine O'Clock in the Morning." And, like most of us, I suspect, she takes more pleasure from the bird sightings she/we have done on our own. She finds diminished joy in stake-outs.

So she says, "How can you count a bird like that?"

"What did you say?" I ask her. "Not count a Tricolored Heron just because Evelyn Stanley showed it to me?" (Ms. Stanley did show it to me. First I got to see the heron, in case

it was preparing to vanish, and then she introduced herself. Ms. Stanley has impeccable birding manners.)

"It's not like you found it yourself," Jude says.

That is absolutely correct. It's a lot different because I never would have found it myself that day in that place. Left to my own desultory plans, I most likely would have wandered around Carver Park for a few hours, gotten wet and cold, and come home with Yellow-rumped Warblers and Hermit Thrushes on my day list.

One of the things I like most about birders is their civilized manner, their penchant for sharing. Bless 'em all, I say, and a tip of my hat to Ms. Stanley.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Jude, by the way, was on Park Point with me two weeks later. We ran into Kim Eckert and two of his birding cohorts. We joined them for warbler patrol through the underbrush. At one point Kim went to the left. I veered right.

"Coming with me?" I asked Jude.

"Are you kidding?" she said. "I'm staying with Kim."

Talk about stake-outs!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

When 1989 began I decided to make a dedicated effort to add to my Minnesota life list and to try for a significant year list. Not having done this before in my many years of mostly casual birding, I chose 200 birds as my 1989 goal. I reached that figure with an ease that surprised me. How high could I go?

And how far would I drive? That might be the real question.

In mid-June, I headed for Rock County. There were several lifers waiting for me down there. I happily found six. My 1989 list grew by 10. There were Whip-poor-wills along the Minnesota River, Upland Sandpipers balancing in the wind on fenceposts, a Willow Flycatcher near the beach on the lake in Blue Mound State Park, plus others.

The best was the Burrowing Owl. The naturalist at the park told me how to find it. A mile north, three miles west, up the hill, big rock, look to the right. I did that, following those directions like I was assembling a

Christmas toy. Another stake-out. A beautiful stake-out correct within inches. There was the owl, watching me watch it. How extraordinary to see this rare and beautiful bird in that rocky pasture, itself an incredible and beautiful place. The evening was warm, the sky clear, the sun setting. No one else was there, just me and the owl in the entire world. It was perfect for those few moments, even after the owl hopped into the grass and walked away.

While I was gone, my middle daughter Ann got together with one of her college friends. Tina is the friend's name. Tina suggested they come to our house and say hello. She and I haven't met. Ann said I was out of town. I had gone birding.

Tina was silent for a moment. Then she said, "What?"

Ann offered a brief explanation of birding.

Tina said, "Why?"

Well, Tina, you had to be there to understand. You had to be there with me and the owl.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

My 1989 birding adventures are going into a journal. I write about what I see and where I see it. I closed January with 40 species, including four owls. I added only one new bird in all of February. I hit 100 in mid-April, on the Salt Lake trip. I had 199 at the end of May, 216 when I drove home from Rock County.

The 216th, a Lark Sparrow, was earned, like most of them. Kim Eckert's guidebook gave me the road but was a little vague about exactly which juniper tree on which hillside. I drove dusty county roads along the Minnesota River from Granite Falls to Redwood Falls. I looked at hundreds, maybe thousands of little birds sitting on wires, on posts, on fences, in trees. I followed junipers from hill to hill like a dog.

I pulled into waysides and read Sioux War history along the way. And then, on a wire just over the granite memorial to the Schwandt family, victims of the 1862 conflict, there was the Lark Sparrow.

The memorial is on the map. You can find it. It's my stake-out. Drive in. Look up. Write it down. **18338 Minnetonka Blvd., Deephaven, MN 55391**



NOTES OF INTEREST

TRICOLORED HERON IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On the morning of 4 May 1989, I was birding at the old Cedar Avenue Bridge in Bloomington, Hennepin County, looking for rails. Using Minolta 10x50 binoculars, I routinely scanned all the herons standing among the reeds and cattails. On this morning, however, I also saw a heron quite different from the others and, upon closer examination, I realized it was a Tricolored Heron. Having previously birded the Florida Everglades, I was familiar with this species and did not consult my field guides until much later. He was standing in the marsh in an area of short cattails which made identification and photographing relatively easy. I observed the bird for about 45 minutes, checking for all the diagnostic field marks. Long, pale legs ruled out Green-backed Heron and the white belly contrasting with an otherwise dark, bluish body confirmed it as a Tricolored Heron. The white plume on his head showed a reddish color at the base. I should also note that it occasionally gave a quiet "clucking" sound when I seemed to approach too closely. Eventually the bird was seen by many other observers. **Anthony Hertzelt, 2321 S. DuPont, #6, Minneapolis, MN 55405.**

PRAIRIE WARBLER IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On our way home from Aitkin, 13 May 1989, my wife Teri and I stopped to check several locations in northern Hennepin County for spring migrants. Finding almost no shorebirds in the area, we decided to concentrate on passerines. At about 11:15 a.m., we arrived at the south end of Elm Creek Park Reserve. We had walked less than a quarter mile when I spotted a yellow warbler about three feet off the ground in a small shrub on the side of the trail. For a moment I thought it might be a Cape May. When it came into full view, however, I immediately called out, "It's a Prairie Warbler!" In 1980 I had observed several Prairie Warblers in Missouri, but this experience was hardly necessary to make the identification. The bird was less than twelve feet away, below eye level, and in direct sunlight. Most striking at first glance were the rows of black streaks on each side of the otherwise bright yellow underparts. A closer look showed that the vent, undertail coverts and most of the underside of the tail were white. Above the streaks, on each side of the lower neck, was a thicker black mark. There were two blackish-olive marks on the yellow face. One of these was a broken eye-stripe; the other, slightly wider, was a moustachial stripe. Together they formed an imperfect, open triangle. The supercilium was bright yellow. This yellow area continued behind and below the eye, giving

the impression of a spectacle. The upperparts were olive from crown to rump. Four or five indistinct chestnut stripes were visible on the upper back when the bird was below us. The wings and tail were both a dull gray. Although the wings had whitish-yellow highlights, similar to those of an immature Yellow Warbler's, there were no conspicuous wingbars. We watched the Prairie Warbler with 7X binoculars for about five minutes from distances of twelve to forty feet before it disappeared into the woods. As it fed in the trees near us, we watched it gently but deliberately pump its tail. The tail pumping was neither as constant nor as vigorous as a Palm's. After we lost sight of the warbler we drove into Osseo, called the Rare Bird Alert and a few local birders, then returned to the park. Several of us searched the area that afternoon and the following morning without relocating the bird. Janssen's *Birds in Minnesota* (1987) lists three other Prairie Warbler records for the state, the most recent in 1975. Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.

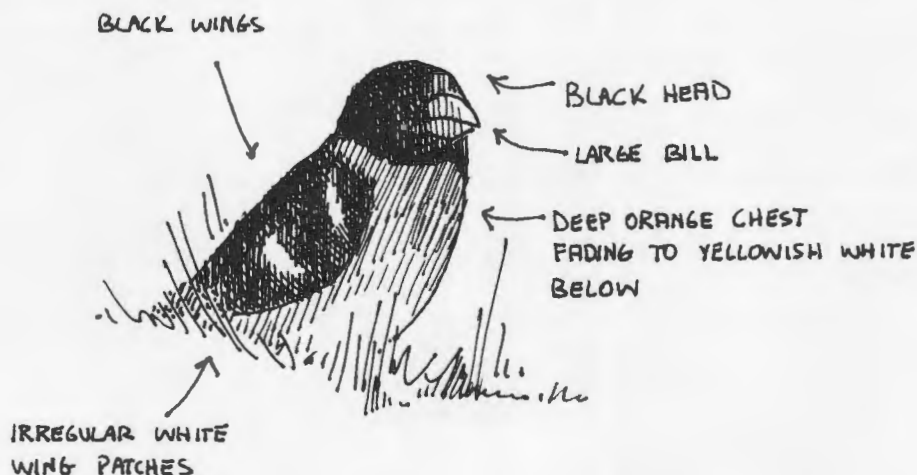
LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL IN WINONA COUNTY — On 6 May 1989, while leading 12 people on a Bell Museum field trip, I discovered a second-summer Lesser Black-backed Gull at Bob Verchota Landing, Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge, about 3 km east of Minnesota City, Winona County. We were inspecting a group of about 25 gulls (mostly Ring-billed plus a few Herrings) on a mudflat in the marsh about 200 m away from us, when I noticed one large gull, resting on a small muskrat lodge, that was conspicuously darker on the back than the others. Although the head and underparts were not visible at that time, I suspected that this bird was a Lesser Black-backed Gull, a species I had observed several times in the past year and a half. I led the group along the shore to a point about 150m from the gull, where we set up several spotting scopes and began observing and taking field notes. Eventually, the gull walked off the muskrat house and stood on the mud next to a third-summer Herring Gull. We watched and took notes from 16:25 to 16:50, during which time it flew a short distance and returned, giving us a good view of the tail and upper wing. Eventually it flew from this area, but we relocated it a few hundred meters away and continued observations from 17:00 to 17:10 at a closer distance of 125m. Then it flew to the east away from us, and we lost sight of it.

This gull was somewhat smaller (perhaps by 3-5 cm) than the nearby Herring Gulls, including the one standing right next to it, and quite a bit larger than the adjacent Ring-bills. It had a somewhat slighter bill (shorter and more slender), a more rounded head and overall a more delicate and gentle appearance than the Herrings. The wings projected farther behind the tail than those of the Herring Gulls, giving the bird a more attenuated look. The mantle, back and scapulars were slate gray, much darker than the same regions of the third-summer Herring Gull next to it, but lighter than the black primaries. The secondary coverts were grayish brown, tipped with paler brown; there was a sharp contrast between the slaty mantle/scapulars and paler brown coverts. In flight the saddle had a three-toned appearance: black outer wing, grayish brown inner wing (secondaries darker), slate gray mantle/scapulars. The bird was noticeably darker overall across the wing and back than Herring Gulls, and it was conspicuously different in flight. The underwing, which was seen rather briefly, appeared entirely dark. The rump and tail were white; the tail had a subterminal dusky 5-cm-wide band (slaty brown), rather irregular and not complete (i.e., a few rectrices appeared to have little if any dusky marking). The legs were grayish yellow or dirty yellow (not bright yellow, but not the pinkish or grayish pink color of the legs of the nearby Herring Gulls). The head and neck were mostly clear white, without any of the dusky eye and nape markings that the two basic-plumaged Black Dog subadults had. There were some dusky smudges on the hindneck, and some larger dusky spots on the anterior flanks; otherwise, the underparts were white. The eye appeared dark. The bill had a creamy yellow tip (1/2 cm or so) and similarly colored base. Between the base and the tip, the lower mandible was mostly dark while the upper mandible was dingy yellow, darker posteriorly.

This is the sixth Minnesota record of this species, with five reports from the past 18 months. It is the only spring record; the other five (two from the North Shore and three from the Twin Cities) were in autumn or early winter. Ages of these birds have been: two adults

(October 1984, September 1988); one third-winter (December 1988); one second-summer (May 1989); one second-winter (December 1987); and one first-winter (November 1987). Based on plumage and date, there were no fewer than three different individuals involved, and probably five (or even all six), since only the two Black Dog birds from consecutive Decembers are suspected of possibly being the same. **Bruce A. Fall, 4300 29th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406**

FIRST BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK RECORD FOR SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA — While birding in southeastern Minnesota, Ann Vogel and I noticed a flock of four to five Red-headed Woodpeckers in a field just outside O.L. Kipp State Park, Winona County. Upon closer examination through binoculars, we spotted another bird on the ground. This bird had a black head, deep orange chest that faded to yellowish white underneath, and black wings with odd, irregular white wing patches. Since it was facing us directly, I could clearly see that the black of the head ended abruptly just below the bill. This, along with the orange chest, ruled out a Towhee, while the chunky shape, large grosbeak-like bill and pale under tail coverts eliminated Northern Oriole as a possibility. I have seen Black-headed Grosbeaks before and concluded that this was the same species. Ann checked her National Geographic Guide while I looked at Peterson's East and we both decided that we had in fact seen a Black-headed Grosbeak. **Anthony Hertz, 2321 DuPont Ave. So., #6, Minneapolis, MN 55405**



BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE AT BEMIDJI — On 20 April 1989 at about 5:00 p.m., I went to scan the ducks on Lake Bemidji at the city park behind the Paul Bunyan statue. The new Lake Irving sewage treatment plant together with the warmer Mississippi River water brought a good assortment of ducks, grebes, and gulls to the only deep open water for miles around. After about ten minutes of scanning the open water with my scope, two Herring Gulls and a smaller unusual gull standing on the ice came into the foreground of my field of view. As I adjusted the scope for these relatively close birds (under 50 yards away), I immediately noted that the smaller gull had black legs. I thought that perhaps I was looking at a Black-legged Kittiwake. Unfortunately, all of my field guides were packed in boxes several miles away as I had just moved to Bemidji. Then I recalled that Sabine's Gulls also had black legs and were also smaller than Ring-billed Gulls. I ran to my car to get note paper and then drew a sketch as the bird sat on the ice. Unfortunately, it then flew in a line directly away from me across the open water. The brief glimpse of its flight left

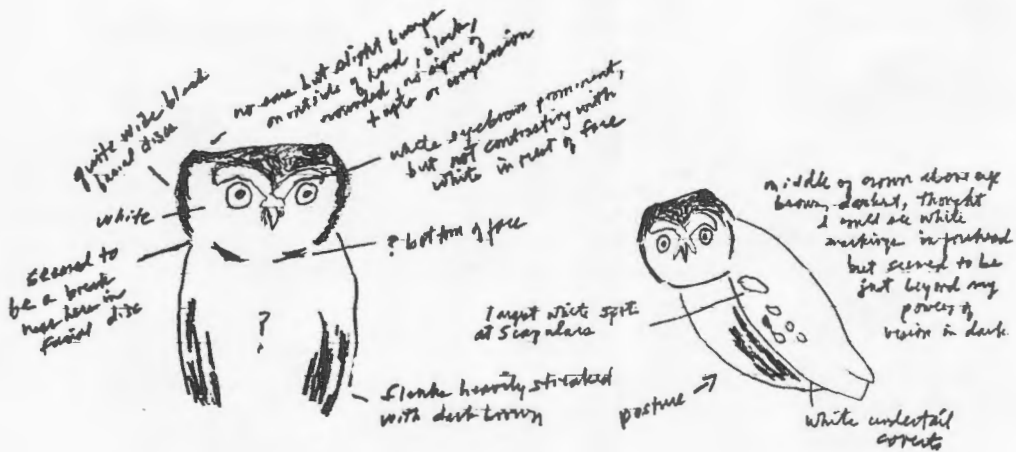
me with a strong impression of a wing pattern with three equal triangles of black, gray and white. I leaped to the conclusion that it was a Sabine's Gull. I drove home to get a bit to eat and to search for my field guides. I only could find Peterson and Robbins and judged the bird to be a Sabine's because the first winter Black-legged Kittiwake drawings in both field guides appeared to have a much too narrow wing stripe. Eventually, I found my P.J. Grant's *Gulls: A Guide to Identification*. I then returned to Lake Bemidji to get a better look since I had really begun to doubt that it was a Sabine's Gull. I quickly found the bird and watched it from 6:15 to 7:30 during which it perched and flew twice. The gull was smaller than the Ring-billed Gulls present, but appeared to me too large to be a Bonaparte's Gull. The narrow bill was a dirty yellow with a black tip. The head had a dark comma behind the eye, light patches of gray (not visible at some angles) on the rear of the head, and an obvious black bar on the nape. The underparts were white while the folded gray wings were bisected with a horizontal black line. The white tail had a narrow black band. Its short flights revealed a wing pattern with a large black outer wedge, the inner wing had a wedge of gray with a black, relatively narrow line through it, and a large triangle of white was on the trailing edge of the wing. The underwing had a small wedge of black only on the outermost primaries. As I stood with my field guides open, the bird was clearly seen to be a Black-legged Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla*). The size, bill color, nape mark, and black on the inner wing eliminate the superficially similar Sabine's Gull. This represents the first April record for Minnesota and the first Beltrami County record. **Doug Johnson, 7135 Tall Pines Dr. N.E., Bemidji, MN 56601**

BOREAL OWL IN MINNEAPOLIS — A screech-owl sized owl landed about 15 feet up on a thin branch of a locust tree in front of our window at 10:10 P.M. on 18 February 1989. From our living room we were looking eye level at the owl. I assumed it would be a screech and was surprised to see that it had no ear tufts and looked more like a saw-whet than a screech. We got out 7X binoculars and began calling out the marks we saw. The upper body was dark brownish; there was a white area at the scapulars and a number of other smaller oval-shaped white spots, approximately fingernail-sized, on what we could see of the wings/back. From the side, the bird's underparts were marked with heavy brown vertical stripes, not in neat rows, but running together. These were on a plain white background, the whole unlike a screech-owl's underparts. The undertail coverts were white. Tail and wing length seemed fairly close. The head was wider than it was long, flat-topped, with wide black facial frames on the sides, much more conspicuous than the black markings on the sides of a gray screech. These frames set off a white face and very white bushy eyebrows. The eyebrows, "X"-shaped, biggest on top, were something like a Great Gray's. The forehead came down in a "V" at the middle. This area was darker than the back and the sides of the head. We were both sure we were seeing small white spots in the black forehead (it wasn't solid) but this wasn't as easy to see in the half dark as some of the guides would have led me to believe. In the front, near the outer part of the head, there was on each side a black knob or rise. These were darker than the immediate surrounding areas and gave the head its unique shape. We tried to visualize these knobs as some form of compressed ear tuft, but that's not what they looked like at any time. The eyes were yellow. The bill was a duller, straw-colored yellowish. (We paid particular attention to the bill color at first to eliminate saw-whet). There were black marks above the eyes. After several minutes it flew from its perch very low to the ground and disappeared between our building and the neighboring house. I looked between the buildings and saw its shape about ten feet up in a tree beside the backyard. We walked around back and approached it from the alley to within about 40 feet again. Lighting conditions were poorer here. While trying to get closer to make out better details, it again flew between the buildings back toward DuPont Avenue. We searched a couple block area, but never relocated it. The next day we went to look at a staked-out rusty Eastern Screech-Owl at Lake Harriet to be sure we weren't somehow fooled by the lighting conditions and extremely compressed ear tufts. The differences were very marked, especially face color (grays, too, are much grayer), the extent and thickness of frames, the conspicuousness of the eyebrows,

Boreal Owl 2705 Dupont Ave. So., Minneapolis, Henn. Co.

2-18-1989 10:10 - 10:15/20 p.m.

blew into locust tree in front of living room window, ~ eye level, 35-40 ft.
night before brightest full moon, street lights, building entry lights
Spotted by Tom Carlson, both watched it with 7x binoculars



bill - yellowish, light colored

Eye - yellow - pupils not well dilated

color - dark, darker than grey screech owl, couldn't tell exactly seemed in best lighting to have touch of gray tone in wings.

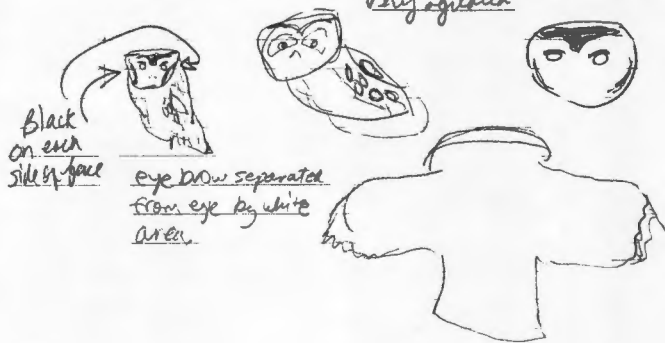
size - screech owl size, ~ 8" +

wings rounded in flight



Behavior - very agitated, perched on a thin branch, the branch moved as the owl turned its head frequently, watching us in apt., more worried about street traffic. Flew between our building & neighboring homes. Retreated ~ 10 ft. up in small tree in that back yard near our property line. Lit up by moon and 200 watt bulbs barely hitting that area.

V-shape
 white face / black forehead / yellow eye / light bill
 Ovals - → large white circles on side / large white area in wing
 size + shape of my fingerprints
 white underside / white undertail / dark tail
 dark back in flight / corners on head but
 no ear sticking out / horizontal perch
 Very agitated



Black on each side of face

eye brow separated from eye by white area

dark crown V-shape
 very white face with black surrounding the sides
 4-6 white oval spots seen from the side view with birds back facing me
 generally dark bird in flight
 Black eye brows above the eye with white area between the eye - eyebrow
 darker area on side streaked
 white underneath
 + no ears but crown sloping forehead.
 area below bill unclear, I don't remember seeing anything, probably because of posture.

the head shape and look of the tufts (they were quite flattened on this screech) and the overall pattern of the body both above and below. Steve and Teri Carlson, 2705 DuPont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408

Editor's Note: We could all take a lesson from the Carlsons on how to describe a bird and document an unusual occurrence. What a magnificent write-up!

A COUNTY LISTER'S DREAM COME TRUE — On a recent MOU Weekend, two Ross' Geese were seen at one time on Carey Lake in Cottonwood County; this was only the second time two rare Ross' had been seen together; the first time being two seen and photographed by Ray Glassel in 1965-66 at Howard Lake, Wright County. However the sighting of a Ross' Goose on 17 April 1989 at Lake Byllesby may well be the first time that one Ross' has been seen in two counties; the north side of the lake borders Dakota County, the south side, Goodhue County. If one parks at the boat landing by the cemetery off of Dakota County State Aid Road 86, west of Cannon Falls, one can have a clear view of the channel which divides the two counties, as well as of the shore of both counties. On the Monday morning (17 April) I parked there, the view included about one hundred Double-crested Cormorants, 14 American White Pelicans and 20 Ring-billed Gulls, as well as large numbers of migrant waterfowl, and one small white goose. Recently (end of March, first of April) there had been a Ross' at an area abutting the DNR Wildlife Management Area southeast of Spring Valley in Fillmore County which I had observed on two occasions; so, pertinent field marks were fresh in my mind. As I started to study the possible Ross' at Lake Byllesby, I also started writing field notes. First I noted size comparisons: the goose was about 1/3 bigger than the Ring-billed Gull when viewed standing side-by-side. It was about 1/4 smaller than a nearby Canada Goose. It was close in size to a Mallard swimming by. Knowing that size alone is not definitive, I tried to get a clear indication of the line of the bill as it adjoined the face, on the head of the goose. Since it was approximately 150 yards from me, and since I was getting some distortion with a 40X lens on the Nikon ED scope, I changed lenses. I could determine that the shape of the bill was more triangular than oblong, the long axis approximating the diagonal line. Near the base of the bill was darker, i.e., not pink as was the bill itself. There was no dark "grinning patch" as seen on a Snow Goose. The vertical line of the base of the bill was perpendicular to the horizontal axis. Off and on, the goose disappeared from view when it mingled amidst the pelicans. When it flew, the black wings tips showed clearly on the otherwise all white-plumaged goose. It settled down by the marsh edge and I noted that its legs were pink, that it had a very round head, short neck and the "jizz" of the bird was "round overall-looking." At 10:14, I looked up from my notetaking and found the bird was not to be seen; but then I found it again swimming in the channel. That is when it suddenly dawned on me that it then was technically in two counties. How nice it was to watch it feed briefly again along the marsh edge in Goodhue County and then fly closer to me on the Dakota County side. At 10:20, the goose flew off and didn't return. I left the area shortly thereafter, sure that I had seen a Ross' Goose and happy to realize that I could legitimately count it on both my Goodhue and Dakota County lists. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 15h Ave. S.W., Rochester, MN 55902.**

ROSS' GOOSE OBSERVED NEAR SPRING VALLEY IN FILLMORE COUNTY — On March 30, 1989 at 5:20 P.M., we spotted a single small white goose in a flock of about 50 Canada Geese. We watched them feeding for about 20 minutes in a picked-over cornfield east of Fenstermacher's Ponds four miles southeast of Spring Valley in Fillmore County. Our first impression was that it was NOT a Snow Goose, and with its small stocky size and a bill that seemed shorter and different from a Snow, it appeared to be a Ross' Goose. We were using 10x50 and 7x35 bincos at about 75 to 100 yards. We consulted our NGS Field Guide and decided it was indeed a Ross', but notified Anne Marie Plunkett who promised to come the next day. We returned to the site to study the goose for another 15 minutes until dusk, while it fed contentedly with the Canadas. March 31, from 4:30 P.M. until dusk, we again studied the goose. First we were in the west with the sun shining past us to the pond on the east. The white goose was on a sheltered pond with the flock of Canadas, all swimming about and feeding on something in the bottom of the pond, each occasionally "diving" with head, neck and forefront submerged. After an hour, the flock gradually left the pond for the hillside where they grazed or rested in the sunshine. During the next half hour in two batches they all flew off to the same cornfield as the night before where we again watched them until dusk. We studied the goose as carefully as possible to again verify characteristics:

chunky body, short-necked appearance, head with a bit of forehead not like the slope of a Snow, the orangey, triangular-shaped bill, its small size as compared to Canada Geese, and Gordon's conviction it was simply "not a Snow." Another knowledgeable birder, Gary Erickson, drove up, glassed it, and remarked at once, "What a small goose!" On 1 April as we approached the area in mid-afternoon, we saw the white goose flying with about 30 Canada Geese as they circled the area north of the ponds before landing in the same cornfield. Our brief glimpse of the Ross' in the air left the impression its wingbeats were more rapid than that of the Canadas. It was very striking in flight with its white and black wings. The geese fed along the hillside and the Ross' fed and occasionally rested closely among the Canadas. Then we were both astonished to see it appear to be grooming a Canada nibbling along the top of the Canada's back or stroking the Canada's feathers with its bill. This it did for about half a minute. It was not fighting as the Canada Goose did not object to this activity. To us, it appeared the Canadas just accepted the Ross' as one of their own. On this day, Bob Janssen and friends positively identified the white goose as a "beautiful specimen of a Ross' Goose." We returned the next day, but did not see it after day three. **Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Dathé, 909 South Broadway, Spring Valley, MN 55975**

Editor's Note: In addition to the features described by the Dathes, we (R. Glassel, A.M. Plunkett and myself) noted the following during our observation of the bird on 1 April 1989: the very small bill lacked a grinning patch; an almost straight line where the bill joined the head; the bill was flesh colored at the tip and dark at the base.

BROAD-WINGED HAWKS KETTLE THROUGH DODGE COUNTY — At 11 A.M. on Thursday 27 April 1989, I was standing on Cemetery Road in Mantorville, Dodge County waiting for the action to begin. I didn't have to wait very long. Within a minute or two, I was seeing Broad-winged Hawks kettling from west to east, many low enough to see the distinct rusty barring of the breasts of the adults, (similar in appearance to the adult Red-shouldered Hawk), their broad light underwings bordered boldly with black. Their short squat tails were fanned at times to show the diagnostic alternating black and white bands of the adult bird (unlike the narrow banding of the Red-shouldered). At times they "called" a whistling call. There were perhaps twenty or more hawks in each of the four kettles I observed while visiting with Lorraine Benson, the person who called in the initial report to Bonnie Brooks, Region V Wildlife Specialist for the DNR. She told me that she and her husband Harold had first seen the hawks on the evening of 25 April, and that they had seen them going through all during the day and evening of 26 April. She estimated that they had seen over 1000 hawks. At about noon she and I noticed an approaching storm front and decided to halt our observing. She mentioned that they had also heard Whip-poor-wills calling the past two nights, so I returned at dusk. Broad-wingeds were still going through, but less frequently and in smaller numbers. I waited till dark for the Whip-poor-wills, but had no luck in hearing them. They, too, were probably just passing through Mantorville. Previous Spring sightings of Broad-winged kettles in this area had been a record early date of 10 March 1985 when I observed nine over Rochester; and previous to that, a large migration on 25 April 1975 when several hundred were seen by many birders over Rochester. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 15th Ave. S.W., Rochester, MN 55902**

Editor's Note: The above documentation of Broad-winged Hawks "kettling" in the spring is a most interesting record. It is well-known that this phenomenon occurs regularly and frequently in the fall, but records of large kettles in the spring are rare in Minnesota.

TWO ROSS' GEESE IN COTTONWOOD COUNTY — During an M.O.U. Birding Weekend field trip to southwestern Minnesota, two Ross' Geese were seen on 2 April 1989 at Carey Lake, two miles west and five miles south of Storden. We studied the birds for about 20 minutes at a range of about 100 yards as they stood and walked among a flock of about 100 Snow Geese. Light conditions were good with the sun at about a 90 degree angle

to our right as we watched the geese through 40X Kowa TSN-2 and TSN-4 spotting scopes. Since I had studied Ross' Geese previously in Nebraska, Missouri and Texas, plus the individual near Hastings in 1983, and was familiar with their diagnostic field marks, no field guides were used or needed to identify them. The other observers with me were Bruce Baer, Tom Kilper, Barbara and Dennis Martin, Mike Mulligan, Bill Stjern and Sue Tracy. Following is a description of the birds as taken from notes written immediately after the observation. Overall body size was about 80% of all adjacent Snow Geese (this smaller size was not particularly obvious, nor is it alone diagnostic in separating this species from smaller female Snow Geese or intermediate Snow-Ross' Geese). Head shape was rounder than the flatter-crowned Snows, making the eye appear more centrally located on the side of the head. Their heads were also pure white, without any rusty staining which was visible on all the Snows I looked at. The most obvious difference in picking these Ross' out of the flock was the stubbier bill shape: the bill length was obviously shorter than the Snows, with this length equal to the depth of the bill at the base (a Snow Goose's bill length is greater than the thickness at the base). Also diagnostic was that the base of the bill met the face in a straight, vertical line, unlike Snow Goose; also no black line was visible along the cutting edges of the bill, while we were close enough to see the black "grinning patch" on all adjacent Snow Geese. In addition, one of the Ross' could be seen well enough when it turned its head at a certain angle to the sun to note the grayish blue color at the base of the otherwise pink bill; however, we were too far away to see any sign of a rough or "warty" texture on the bill. Like the adult white-morph Snows, the two Ross' Geese had pink legs and feet, and their plumage was white except for black primaries. The geese eventually flew around the lake a couple times, and finally they flew low over our heads towards the west. I was able to pick out one of the Ross' in flight by its stubby bill and smaller size, but again the bill shape was more obvious than body size. Finally, this species would probably prove to be a rare but Regular spring migrant in Minnesota if there were more observers examining the flocks of Snow Geese passing through western Minnesota in late March and early April.

Kim Eckert, 9735 North Shore Dr., Duluth, MN 55804

A KENTUCKY WARBLER IN HOUSTON COUNTY AND A FEW OTHER GOOD BIRDS — South of Wildcat Landing at Brownsville in Houston County, just off Minnesota Highway 26, is an access to the Reno Forest of the Richard Dorer Hardwood Forest. A walking trail goes back into the forest from the pull-off parking-place on the highway. Like so many places I go, it does not have a place name. As one starts along the trail, there is a stream on the left and a sharply vertical bluff on the right. In the early afternoon of Tuesday, 9 May 1989 there were many migrants in this area: Northern Waterthrush along the stream, Wilson's and Canada (a little early) Warblers, Chestnut-sided, Orange-crowned, Tennessee, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, American Redstart, Black-throated Green Warblers, a Solitary Vireo, many Blue-gray Gnatcatchers — and a female Kentucky Warbler on the bluff side, — an odd assortment of birds. When I first saw the Kentucky, I thought I was looking at something from the book *A Field Guide to Little Known and Seldom Seen Birds of North America*: I was looking at a very funny looking bird: a large warbler, olive green above, and all yellow below, its long legs clinging to a weed stalk, and seemingly tail-less appearance with an odd configuration of yellow about its eye. It took me awhile to figure out just what shape the yellow was. It is easier to draw than to describe. The yellow extended from the bill to behind the eye where it hooked outward before coming down along the side of, and under and around the eye where it joined a black mustache-like mark which then came back up along the side of the face to the bill. Luckily for me, it didn't disappear so I had time to figure it all out and know that I was seeing a female Kentucky Warbler for the first time. The top of her head was not solid black, but rather a mottled black. The habitat was right, and I was familiar with (my favorite) the Canada Warbler which also has yellow "spectacles" but is blue-gray above, and shows a necklace, even though vaguely, in the female. After a while, and feeling certain of my identification, I left the area to look for sparrows along the Reno Trail. It was chilly then (perhaps 50 degrees) so I decided to head for home. I stopped one

more time near Wildcat Landing to check again for shorebirds. Again nothing. However, my spring-time project of checking every white egret for a black bill paid off finally. Right near the highway was a black-billed egret which soon raised one of its feet out of the muddy water to reveal the "golden slippers" of a Snowy Egret. I called the Hotline from Brownsville, and drove on up-river to LaCrescent; there in the marsh pond on the south side of Highway 14/61 were 19 American White Pelicans and a Black-crowned Night-Heron. It had turned out to be one of my better birding days in Houston County. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 15th Ave. S.W. Rochester, MN 55902**

WESTERN TANAGER IN ROCHESTER — I first saw the male Western Tanager at about six in the evening on Sunday, 7 May 1989. He was so striking that it took no time at all to locate him in my guide. He seemed primarily interested in feeding (sunflower seeds) and drinking from the bird bath. He never seemed to stray more than several lots away for four days and gave us time to call the local Nature Center, who then contacted members of the local Audubon Society. The tanager was very cooperative, allowing many people to come back and watch him go from feeder to birdbath. He seemed to be refueling and payed little attention to the commotion he had caused. **Frank White III, 1327 Cascade St. N.W. Rochester, MN 55901**



Western Tanager, 7 May 1989, 1327 Cascade St. N.W., Rochester. Photo by John Weiss, courtesy of the Rochester Post Bulletin.

FERRUGINOUS HAWK IN DODGE COUNTY — I was doing some birding in Dodge County during the morning of 10 May 1989 and was in the process of heading back home after hiking in the Rice Lake area. I was in an area approximately three miles northwest of Wasioja and 3.5 miles south of West Concord. As I was driving along to the east at about 45 mph, I noticed a hawk perched facing me on a wooden fence-post at about 50 to 60 yards to the north of the road. It was extremely light, especially the head, which seemed unusual for the "usual" Red-tailed, so I pulled to a stop to get a better look. In the view through my binoculars, I discovered that not only was the head a light color, but the legs were rusty colored. I couldn't see much of the sides of the bird because it was directly facing me, but I did note that the upper part of the folded wing was a darker color that helped accent the light head. Since I recognized the distinct field marks of the Ferruginous Hawk, I backed up to get a better angle and use my spotting scope for an even better view. Just as I got the bird in the scope, it took off to the northwest giving me an excellent view of its back. I quickly switched back to my binoculars so I could watch it during its flight. Its back appeared to be fairly uniform light brown (almost tan) color with very distinct light areas at the rump and into the tail and on each wing, just past the elbow. Even the lower portion of the tail appeared to be about the same color as the back. The bird took a direct flight to another fence post further away from me and perched there. I again used my scope and this time I saw a deeper brown or rusty color at the top of the wing. The view through the scope was distorted due to heat waves that could have made the colors darker, but there definitely was a contrast between the top of the wing and the rest of the body, especially the head. Since the bird had perched closer to the north-south road on the east of the section, I moved my van to that road to attempt to get a better view, but found that I could not see the bird because of a slight rise in the land between the bird and the road. I retraced my path and found the bird again where I had last seen it. Shortly, it took off and began a slow circling flight that took it higher. I saw that the length of the wings was noticeably longer than a Red-tailed Hawk and its slow, strong and deliberate wing beats reminded me of an eagle. There also was no dark area on the leading edge of the wing that is found on Red-tails. I could also see the dark area where the birds legs contrasted against the whiteness of the body and wings. The bird flew around for one or two minutes and then glided off and perched on the ground further away from me. The bird had been in an area that was pasture. This time he landed in a field that had recently been plowed. This time I knew that I could get much closer by driving up the north-south road, so I took off in that direction. Just as I spotted the bird again, it flipped its wings up showing a flash of white as it took off again. I was blocked by some trees in the area and did not see where it went. I searched the area for several minutes but could not find the bird again. I headed on home so I could go to work, but Steve Ekblad and I went back about five hours later and attempted to find the bird again. We searched the area and the surrounding sections but were unable to relocate the bird. **Bob Ekblad, Rt. 1, Box 149, Byron, MN 55920**

WESTERN SANDPIPER SPECIMEN — In a recent article (*The Loon* 61:10-13), Kim Eckert noted the lack of information on the status of Western Sandpiper in Minnesota. At the time, he was unaware of any specimen or photo documenting its occurrence in the state. In the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History, there is a Western Sandpiper specimen (BMNH 16266) that was collected 4 September 1960 by Walter Breckenridge at Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle County, and prepared as a museum skin by John Jarosz. This moderately long-billed juvenile female (exposed culmen 26mm) is labeled "first specimen from state" and is the only Minnesota specimen in the BMNH collection of 27 Western Sandpipers. This species, while documented as occurring in Minnesota, remains very poorly known and the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee is still interested in details of any future records, as well as any existing photos, other specimens or carefully documented sight records that have not yet been submitted. **Bruce A. Fall, 4300 29th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406**

ADULT LAUGHING GULLS AT DULUTH — My husband and I arrived at the Erie Pier dredge-spoil impoundment at 40th Ave. W. in Duluth at about 6:30 a.m. on Sunday, 28 May 1989. There were about 100 Ring-billed Gulls on a mud bar at the northwest corner of the impoundment about 1000 feet from our viewing spot at the northeast corner. At the tip of the bar were some shorebirds that I scoped-in first and identified as six Black-bellied Plovers, two Lesser Golden-Plovers — one Ruddy Turnstone and some "peeps." I then started to work over the gulls and quickly discovered two black-headed type gulls in full adult plumage vigorously preening while standing in shallow water at the edge of the bar. I first assumed they were Franklin's Gulls but could not see any white in the black, folded wing tip. Then one stretched up its wing and I had a good view of the pattern — black primary tip against all grey wing with the only white being the trailing edge of the flight feathers. We then moved the car to get a bit closer and watched them through the window-mounted 22 power telescope for about five minutes while they continued to preen. Suddenly they took off together and flew away straight and high to the southwest. I watched them until they disappeared, confirming for both birds the black wing tip and dark grey mantle with only a white trailing edge on the grey flight feathers. The viewing conditions were good — sun out and in back of us. Other plumage characteristics noted: solid black hood except for white crescent patches above and below eye; mantle dark grey (darker than local gulls — Herring and Ring-billed); white nape, tail and white underparts; black legs (could not see feet); bill looked black through binoculars but through telescope could see reddish cast; size slightly smaller than Ring-billed Gull. I have seen many Laughing Gulls on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts and once before in Minnesota. **Janet C. Green, 10550 Old North Shore Rd., Duluth, MN 55804**

MINNESOTA'S FIRST HOUSE FINCH NEST — In mid-May 1989 I received a call from Grace Dahm Backus of Winona indicating that there was a possible House Finch nest in a residential area of Winona. On 19 May 1989, while on my way to Chicago, I stopped in Winona to investigate. I met Grace and we proceeded to 510 E. King Street to the residence of Catherine O'Dea. When we were about a block away from the house, I heard and saw a male House Finch singing from the top of a tree across from the O'Dea house. Grace took me over to the south side of the house to look at the nest. As we were approaching, the male House Finch flew from the tree across the road to a tree in the O'Dea backyard. The nest was located on the under ledge of an aluminum awning. The female was on the nest as we got close, but flushed as we walked by the nest. The cup-like nest was well constructed, made chiefly of grasses, plus root-like fibers; a fragment of white paper and a piece of clear plastic were worked into the side. A small step ladder gave me a chance to feel into the nest. There were two young, approximately two days old. This represents the first positive nesting of the House Finch in Minnesota. House Finches have no doubt nested in other areas of the state. Minneapolis, St. Paul and Mankato have had reports of young being fed at feeders by adults, but no active nests have ever been found until this one in Winona. The House Finch is rapidly expanding its range in the state and will probably be found nesting in other areas in the near future. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

PRAIRIE WARBLER IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On our way home from Aitkin, 13 May 1989, my wife Teri and I stopped to check several locations in northern Hennepin County for spring migrants. Finding almost no shorebirds in the area, we decided to concentrate on passerines. At about 11:15 a.m., we arrived at the south end of Elm Creek Park Reserve. We had walked less than a quarter mile when I spotted a yellow warbler about three feet off the ground in a small shrub on the side of the trail. For a moment I thought it might be a Cape May. When it came into full view, however, I immediately called out, "It's a Prairie Warbler!" In 1980 I had observed Prairie Warblers in Missouri, but this experience was hardly necessary to make the identification. The bird was less than twelve

feet away, below eye level, and in direct sunlight. Most striking at first glance were the rows of black streaks on each side of the otherwise bright yellow underparts. A closer look showed that the vent, undertail coverts and most of the underside of the tail were white. Above the streaks, on each side of the lower neck, was a thicker black mark. There were two blackish-olive marks on the yellow face. One of these was a broken eye-stripe, the other, slightly wider, was a moustachial stripe. Together they formed an imperfect, open triangle. The supercilium was bright yellow. This yellow area continued behind and below the eye, giving the impression of a spectacle. The upperparts were olive from crown to rump. Four or five indistinct chestnut stripes were visible on the upper back when the bird was below us. The wings and tail were both a dull gray. Although the wings had whitish-yellow highlights, similar to those of an immature Yellow Warbler's, there were no conspicuous wingbars. We watched the Prairie Warbler with 7X binoculars for about five minutes from distances of twelve to forty feet before it disappeared into the woods. As it fed in the trees near us, we watched it gently but deliberately pump its tail. The tail pumping was neither as constant nor as vigorous as a Palm's. After we lost sight of the warbler we drove into Osseo, called the Rare Bird Alert and a few local birders, then returned to the park. Several of us searched the area that afternoon and the following morning without relocating the bird. Janssen's *Birds in Minnesota* (1987) lists only three documented Prairie Warbler records for the state, the most recent in 1975. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

WHITE-EYED VIREO IN OLMSTED COUNTY — On 13 May 1989, Jerry Bonkoski, Jerry Pruett, Helen Tucker, Augie Krueger, and Steve and Bob Ekblad were conducting a Big Day Count in Olmsted County. After a successful morning of birding, we headed into the Izaak Walton wetlands and began walking on one of the trails. We located a good wave of warbler's and slowly worked closer to the Zumbro River. As we moved down a hillside to the river, we heard a vireo sing. After hearing the first phrase, Bob thought it might be a Yellow-throated Vireo, but it sang again and Steve immediately called out, "It sounds like it might be a White-eyed Vireo!" Bob quickly found and played the recording of the White-eyed Vireo and we agreed that we indeed had come across a White-eyed. We moved down the hill closer to the source of the songs and most of us soon found the bird to get a positive identification. At first it did not seem to be responsive to the tape and moved away from us, but after repeating the recording a few more times it moved in closer and closer, to the point where it was coming within twelve, ten, and then even eight feet of us. We spent several minutes observing the bird and making sure that everyone in the group had had a good chance to see all of the unique field marks which make it a White-eyed Vireo, such as the yellow color between and around the eyes (spectacles), the yellowish wash on the lower part of the underbelly, the white throat, the distinct wing bars, the lack of an eyeline, the olive-colored back, and even the white iris. Being able to identify all of these field marks enabled us to eliminate all other possible species from consideration. Of the group, four of us had previous experience with the species in Texas, and Jerry Bonkoski had seen one a few years ago in Olmsted County and near Byron. The bird continued singing and flitting from shrub to shrub at about eye level. We eventually left the area and the bird, which was still singing, at about 2:30 p.m. and continued our big day. On the following day, Jerry and Jodi Bonkoski unsuccessfully attempted to relocate the vireo. Within the next week, several other birders also tried to find the bird but could not locate it either. We considered ourselves to be very fortunate to be in the right place at the right time to be able to add this casual species to our Minnesota and Olmsted County life lists. **Bob and Steve Ekblad, Rt. 1, Box 149, Byron, MN 55920.**

Birding Is The Answer — To Awareness

Robert B. Janssen

Have you ever been a little bit intimidated or even slightly jealous of the person who seems to have that innate ability or talent to do something exceptionally well and with little or no effort? Being able to play the piano, having an artistic talent for drawing, painting or sculpture, the ability to hook up a VCR or build a house, a mechanical aptitude; these are a few of the many talents that other people have that I don't have.

I think of these on occasion and wonder where I was when the genes for talent came together; guess I was behind the "door." However, when I really got down to thinking about this problem seriously, I said to myself, "Everyone has a talent," at least that's what I heard from various people as I was growing up. As I got older, it came to me that I had the ability to identify birds better than most people on the street. But I passed this off as not really a talent, but just something for fun.

Yet really, down deep, I didn't believe this because when I thought about identification of birds, the word "awareness" kept coming to my mind. Awareness is one of the most beautiful words in the English language. Just think about it for a few minutes. If you have the talent of awareness, you can appreciate, enjoy, love and participate in the world around you. What could be a greater talent? Think about it for a few *more* minutes. We birders have the best talent available. We can hear birds sing above the noise of a city, we see things that the ordinary person doesn't even know exists. Haven't you been riding in a car with a non-birder and said "Oh, look at the flock of swans going over the car." You not only see them, you also hear them. Your companion asks, "Where, Where?" He/she wasn't even aware of anything going on beyond the front seat of the car. You get the usual comment — how do you see such things? I remember when I was in Florida at a convention, and I took a couple for a ride to the ocean. As we got close to a small bay there was a single half-dead tree which dominated the scene, and in the tree were two perched Turkey Vultures as big as anything. As I passed slowly by I said, "Look at the vultures," and pointed to the tree. I got the usual response. "Where? Where?"

As I think about these situations I don't mean to be critical of other people, just very thankful that we birders have this exceptional talent of AWARENESS. We should be proud, happy and thankful for such a gift which makes us not only aware of birds, but of the total environment: trees, water, rivers, oceans, mountains, all the living creatures around us. What could be a more complete talent!

We can also carry this talent a step further. As aware birders we have a heightened awareness of other people's talents; even though I know nothing about music, painting, fixing a TV set or building a house, I am able to enjoy other people's talents without any envy or intimidation.

Birders, develop and hone your awareness skills. It will make for a better life, and, best of all, better birding...

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds, we aim to create and increase public interest in birds and promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims through the publishing of a magazine, *The Loon*; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest" and color and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of sheet with generous margins. Notes of Interest should be generally less than two typewritten pages double-spaced. If reprints are desired the author should so

specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

Club information and announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Kim Eckert. See inside front cover.

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MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, donate \$12.50 for a regular yearly membership. Other classes of membership that you may choose are: Family \$15.00 yearly; Supporting \$20.00 yearly; Sustaining \$30 yearly; Life \$150. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$20.00 yearly. **All memberships are on a calendar year basis.** Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$3.00 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (minimum lots of 20 for \$5.00 postage paid).

Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should be sent to the Treasurer.

EDITOR OF THE LOON: Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). The Editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. See back cover for details. **ASSOCIATE EDITORS:** Kim R. Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804; Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902; Dr. Harrison Tordoff, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Photo Editor: Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St., N.W., Aitkin, MN 56431.

"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON,"** Kim Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER: Elizabeth Bell, 5868 Pioneer Rd. S., St. Paul Park, MN 55071. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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Identification and Status of Clark's Grebe in Minnesota

Kim R. Eckert

Since the American Ornithologists' Union declared the Clark's Grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*) a separate species in 1985, birders in Minnesota started to examine Western Grebes (*A. occidentalis*) more closely in hopes of finding a Clark's among them. So far the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (hereafter, MORC) has accepted four sight records, and the species is currently classified as Accidental on the most recent (March 1988) Checklist of Minnesota Birds. However, since we have only been looking for this species for four years, and since MORC has yet to consider some Clark's Grebe records (and may reconsider others), any status classification of this grebe in Minnesota is only tentative.

Compounding this uncertainty is the disagreement over which field marks are diagnostic in separating Clark's from Western's; indeed, there is still disagreement over whether or not the Clark's Grebe is a valid species since many grebes with intermediate characteristics occur. John Ratti's article, "Identification and Distribution of Clark's Grebe" (*Western Birds* 12:41-46, and reprinted in *The Loon* 58:112-116), asserts that the two grebes are distinct species, that facial pattern is the primary distinction between the two, and that bill and flank colors are less important, secondary field marks. On the other hand, Robert Storer and Gary Nuechterlein's article, "An Analysis of Plumage and Morphological Characters of the Two Color Forms of the Western Grebe *Aechmophorus*" (*The Auk* 102:102-119), says that splitting the forms is premature until more research with intermediates is done, that bill color is the most reliable character, that facial pattern is reliable only with adults during the breeding season, and that there is much overlap in flank color. Kenn Kaufman's article, "Identification and Documenting Clark's Grebe Out of Range" (*The Bluebird* 56:57-62), generally agrees with Storer and Nuechterlein's (hereafter, Storer) assessment of field marks, while another field identification authority, Paul Lehman (pers. comm.), also stresses

bill color as most important, with facial pattern and flank color of secondary importance.

I. Identification

Based on the three articles mentioned above, especially Storer, on correspondence with Lehman, who read and commented on the documentation of Minnesota's accepted or possible Clark's Grebe records, on Ratti's comments on the Lake Osakis photographs sent to him, and on some limited personal field experience, I have outlined ten actual or possible differences between Clark's and Western Grebes. Some of these are more useful or reliable than others, and some are only speculations that need further testing in the field. Also, these are presented from the point of view of separating Clark's Grebe from Western, the much more likely form in Minnesota.

Bill Color. As is widely known, the Clark's Grebe's bill is brighter and more orange-yellow than the Western's duller and more greenish-yellow bill. In addition, there is a narrow, sharply defined dark line on the Clark's Grebe's culmen (i.e., top edge of the upper mandible); on the Western's culmen this dark edge tends to be wider and more diffuse, and there is more duskiness on the base of the bill than on a Clark's. Most would agree that bill color is the single most reliable field mark, even on immatures and on adults in basic (i.e., non-breeding) plumage. In fact, Storer used bill color alone to identify and separate their study specimens, stating that intermediate bill colors are "rare." Bill color is surprisingly easy to see, even at a distance in good light, and, in my experience, it is easier to determine than the eye-cap facial pattern described below. However, care should be taken in bright sunlight, which can make a Western's bill appear brighter and more orange than it really is. Care is also necessary when judging grebe photographs, since film type and exposure, as well as sunlight conditions, can greatly affect apparent bill color and give misleading impressions.

Facial Pattern. Along with bill color, facial pattern is a generally known and accepted difference on typical grebes. The Clark's Grebe's black crown feathers normally end above the eye, so that the eye is completely surrounded by white; the Western's black cap normally ends below the eye, with the eye completely surrounded by black or dark gray. If this eye/cap pattern is clearly seen and unambiguous, then no matter what the season or age, a typical grebe can be safely identified, especially if the bill color is also noted. Curiously, however, this pattern is often difficult to see on a distant grebe (as previously mentioned, bill color shows up better). And there are many grebes, especially immatures and non-breeding adults, with "in-between" patterns: their black cap edges intersect the eye, or their eyes are surrounded by various shades of gray.

Storer reports virtually no overlap in eye/cap pattern on breeding adults, which in Minnesota probably includes grebes seen from late April to July. A grebe then with the black cap edge above or, rarely, through the eye, with all white behind the eye, and/or with "white" lores should be a Clark's. A grebe with black cap edge below the eye, with black or gray or a mix of black and white behind the eye, and/or with dark or "light gray" lores should be a Western.

However, full-grown juveniles and non-breeding adults, both possible in Minnesota from late summer on, can have "in-between" patterns and show considerable overlap, according to Storer. While an immature/non-breeding adult with black cap entirely above the eye, with all white behind the eye, and/or with white lores is still a Clark's, and one with black cap below the eye, with "all dark" behind the eye, and/or with "dark gray" lores would be a Western, a grebe of this age/season with cap edge intersecting the eye, with gray or a mix of black and white behind the eye, and/or with "light gray" lores could be either species.

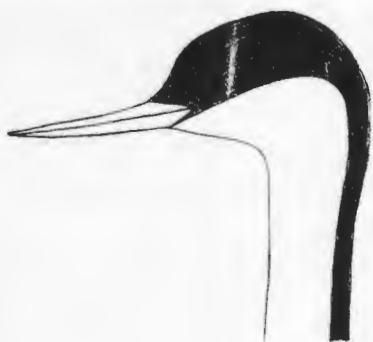
Obviously, the eye/cap pattern can be complicated and difficult, partly because how one interprets an "in-between" bird can depend on how one defines dark gray vs. light gray vs. white. My only experience with such a grebe was in August at Big Stone N.W.R.: everything about it indicated Western except for the pale (i.e., light gray or whitish) lores, but doubts about its identity disappeared

when a typical adult Western swam in to feed it, indicating a full-grown juvenile Western Grebe. Finally, note the disturbing photos of the grebes from Lake Osakis (pp. 101, 103, 105) — even adults in breeding season can prove difficult, even impossible, to safely identify.

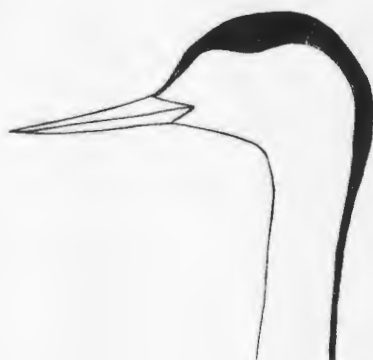
Cap Shape. Although the position of the eye relative to the edge of the cap is often difficult to see, I feel a typical Clark's Grebe can still be identified at a distance by the shape and position of the edge of the cap, irrespective of the position of the eye. As shown in the sketches (p. 101), the Western's cap ends in a relatively straight line slanting downwards to the base of the lower mandible, while the edge of a Clark's Grebe's cap is more of an "S-curve", curving upwards before slanting down to the base of the culmen. In addition, even at a distance, a Clark's shows more white on the face than the Western, since the edge of the cap is higher up on the side of the head. Again these differences are visible on all the Clark's Grebes I have seen and can be seen on the Kidder County, North Dakota photos (p. 106).

Flanks. Another widely-mentioned difference is flank color, normally light in Clark's and dark in Western, a difference usually easily seen at a distance. However, most would agree that, while often helpful in indicating a possible Clark's Grebe worth a closer look, paler flanks are only a secondary and unreliable field mark. Storer found that some Westerns, no matter what the age or season, can also have pale flanks. Also, flank color can be difficult to determine with unfavorable light conditions, and twice I have seen Clark's Grebes showing what initially appeared to be dark flanks. In one case the grebe was swimming low enough in the water so that its flanks were submerged and what were thought to be dark flanks were actually the black back and folded wings. In the other case, the adult Clark's in North Dakota with chicks on its back (see photos) had its dark wings drooped down to conceal the pale flanks.

Back Color. Not only does a typical Clark's Grebe have paler flanks, but its back/folded wings are also paler than on a typical Western. This creates a "three-toned" effect: black hindneck stripe, dark gray back, pale gray or whitish flanks (see North Dakota photos). On a typical Western Grebe, the hindneck, back



Typical Western Grebe



Typical Clark's Grebe

Eyes omitted from sketches. Note difference in typical Clark's Grebe facial pattern even when eye position is not visible: edge of cap has an "S-curve" shape and is higher up on the side of the head, making head appear whiter overall. If present, thinner hindneck stripe is also visible from the side, making the neck also appear whiter.



Photo A: Clark's or Western Grebe? 23 May 1982, Lake Osakis, Todd Co. Photo by Nestor Hiemenz. See text, Section II, Other Records.

and flanks are more similar in color with less contrast between them. However, back color is as variable and as unreliable as flank color, and should only be considered a minor identification aid.

Hindneck Stripe. One little-known, tentative, but possibly useful difference on some Clark's Grebes is their narrower black stripe on the hindneck. This was mentioned in an earlier article by Kaufman, "The Double Identity of the Western Grebe" (*Continental Birdlife* 1:85-89), although he does not mention this in the more recent article previously mentioned, and neither Ratti nor Storer found any difference in this in their research. However, Rich Stallcup notes this field mark in his article "The Grebes" (*Point Reyes Bird Observatory*, Winter 1987-88), and I found this character to be visible in three of my four encounters with Clark's Grebes, and it is also noted in the 1989 Clay County record listed below. At a distance, this mark was very evident in my experience, and easier to see than bill color, flank color or eye/cap facial pattern; it was also visible when the grebes were viewed from the side (see sketches). In these three instances, the stripe was only about one-fourth the width of the neck when seen from the back, making most of the hindneck appear white. All adjacent Westerns present on these occasions had a stripe covering at least half the width of the hindneck, leaving only narrow white edges visible along the sides of the strip (for a sketch of this difference, see *The Loon* 59:211). While I am not suggesting hindneck stripe width is a consistent difference, it could be useful in indicating a distant, possible Clark's Grebe worth a closer look. It is even possible that a further investigation could show that Westerns never have such a narrow stripe, so that, while Clark's can still have a thick hindneck stripe, a grebe with a narrow stripe would "always" be a Clark's.

Flight Feathers. It has been suggested, that in flight, a Western Grebe's white wing patch or stripe is mostly limited to the secondaries, while on a Clark's the white extends farther out to include some of the outer primaries. However, Storer's research showed complete overlap in this feature, with grebes of both species at any age or season showing both extremes of white. In August 1989, I watched an otherwise typical adult Western Grebe flap its wings to reveal white clearly extending out to the outer primaries. Therefore, it is

probably not worth waiting for a suspected Clark's Grebe to flap its wings, something grebes are seldom seen doing anyway.

Swimming Posture. Some have also suggested that Clark's Grebes tend to swim lower in the water than Westerns, making them appear smaller with direct comparison. None of the four authorities mentioned above indicate this as an identification aid, but it was evident on two of the Clark's I have seen, and it may be worth further research or worth noting in documenting possible Clark's Grebe records. Again, as mentioned earlier, if a Clark's Grebe rides lower in the water, it could give an erroneous impression of having dark flanks.

Territorial Call. Researchers have described a difference in these grebes' primary calls on breeding territory (and these calls are included on the recording which accompanies the National Geographic field guide). Clark's give a one-syllabled "cr-e-e-e-k", while Westerns give a two-syllabled "cree creek". However, Storer reports that "in the northern part of the range [including Minnesota], where the light-phase birds [i.e., Clark's] are rare, the phase-specific response to advertising calls is lowered," perhaps suggesting their calls are not always different. And Lehman (pers. comm.) reports that he has "on a fair number of occasions heard a single call [i.e., one-syllabled] given and then looked around and seen only Western Grebes present, no Clark's." Nevertheless, if a suspected Clark's Grebe is heard vocalizing, it certainly would be worth listening to and describing.

Chicks. As illustrated in the National Geographic field guide (also see North Dakota photos), downy young Clark's Grebes are whiter overall, unlike the more two-toned Western chicks which are darker on the crown, hindneck and back. Ratti found this difference useful until 45 days of age, but, unless monitored from birth, the age of a "two-toned" chick would be impossible to judge and could still be a Clark's over 45 days old. Such young would also be attended by a parent and it may be easier to identify the adult, but if the adult were an intermediate of uncertain identity, it is feasible the chick's appearance could aid in the identification.

II. Minnesota Records

Through August 1989, thirteen records of possible Clark's Grebes have been



Photo B

**Photos B, C, D: Probable Western Grebe,
12 July 1984, Lake Osakis, Todd Co.
Photos by Nestor Hiemenz. See text, Sec-
tion II, Other Records.**



Photo C

Photo D



documented in Minnesota. Of these, four have been judged Acceptable by MORC, four Unacceptable, and five have not yet been voted on (two are sight records and three are photographic records studied by both Ratti and Lehman). It is possible some of the records already voted on could be reconsidered, and those records not yet voted on probably will, or at least should, be considered by MORC eventually.

Records Currently Acceptable

— 10 May 1986, Ash Lake, Grant Co. (*The Loon* 58:110). Bill color described as “brighter yellow” than the “duskier” bills of the four Westerns present, and facial pattern seen and sketched. Although more attention was paid to the facial pattern than to bill color, direct comparison with Western Grebes makes this an Acceptable record.

— 2 May 1987, Heron Lake, Jackson Co. (*The Loon* 59:102). Bill color, facial pattern and flank color all seen in direct comparison with Westerns; therefore, an Acceptable record.

— 7 May 1987, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (*The Loon* 59:210-211). Bill color, eye/cap facial pattern, cap shape, flank color, hindneck stripe and swimming posture all described in direct comparison with Westerns; another Acceptable record.

— 22 May 1989, Moorhead, Clay Co. (*The Loon* 61:150-151). Bill color (“bright yellow”), eye/cap facial pattern, cap shape, flank color and hindneck stripe all seen and described well. Although no direct comparison with Western Grebe was available, the detailed description makes this Acceptable.

Records Currently Unacceptable

— 24 April 1983, Marsh Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co. (*The Loon* 57:134). Facial pattern noted in direct comparison with Western Grebes. Published before a vote was taken, this was probably a valid Clark's Grebe, but since nothing was noted about bill color, it remains an Unacceptable record.

— 23 May 1986, Lake Osakis, Todd Co. (*The Loon* 58:110-111). Another published record later found Unacceptable. Bill color described as “orange” in direct comparison with Western Grebes' bills described as “yellowish orange”; white feathering above and in front of eye, but it was black behind the eye (similar in pattern to 23 May 1982 Lake

Osakis photo). Ratti judged this to “probably be a Clark's Grebe, with “abnormal coloration”, but he “never saw anything like this”, and he added “it could be a hybrid”. Because of these uncertainties, MORC was not willing to accept this, but this intermediate individual could be reconsidered.

— 24 April 1988, Thielke Lake, Big Stone Co. Bill color, cap shape, hindneck stripe and swimming posture all noted in direct comparisons with Westerns. The distance involved was too great to determine eye/cap facial pattern, and for this reason the record was not accepted. However, since the bill color and other features were seen, this probably was a Clark's Grebe, and it is another record that could be reconsidered.

— 26 June 1988, Rushfeldt Lake, Clay Co. Bill described as “yellow” and “dark cap extending well above the eye” were the only important features noted. Another probable Clark's Grebe, this was not accepted since there was no direct comparison with Western Grebes available and since the exact color of the bill was not noted.

Other Records

— 23 May 1982, Lake Osakis, Todd Co. (photo A). Bill appears pale yellow in color photo with no hint of duskiess or greenish color, but sunlight conditions appear to be bleaching out the color. Facial pattern appears intermediate and looks similar to that seen and sketched in 23 May 1986 Lake Osakis record. Flanks appear white, but angle of bird and light conditions make this uncertain. Although Ratti considered this a “fairly typical” Clark's, he also considered the similar 1986 Lake Osakis grebe as only probable, abnormal, and a possible hybrid. Also, since the actual bill color is in doubt and since the eye/cap pattern seems intermediate, MORC may not be able to accept this if it comes to a vote.

— 12 July 1984, Lake Osakis, Todd Co. (photos B, C, D). In color photos, bill appears dull yellow, perhaps slightly greenish, with a diffuse dusky culmen. Note unusual facial pattern: dark gray around the right eye, but with pale gray feathers or mottling surrounding the left eye. Probably not a Clark's Grebe, this seems closer to Western Grebe overall.

— 14 April 1985, Salt Lake, Lac Qui Parle Co. The documentation for this sight record only mentions “an all yellow bill and some



Photos E, F: Clark's or Western Grebe? 19 May 1987, Lake Osakis, Todd Co. Photos by Nestor Hiemenz. See text, Section II, Other Records.





Photo G. Clark's Grebe, 26 June 1989, Kidder Co., North Dakota. Photo by author. Note "three-toned" effect of black hindneck, gray back, whitish flanks. In color, photo is somewhat overexposed, making bill appear clear yellow.



Photo H: Same Clark's Grebe as in Photo G. In color, bill looks orange-yellow in this photo. Also note eye/cap facial pattern, whitish flanks, and overall whitish color of chicks.



Photo I: Same Clark's Grebe as in Photos G, H. In color, bill again appears orange-yellow. Also note eye/cap facial pattern and "S-curve" edge of black cap. Flanks appear dark, but with chicks on back the wings are drooped concealing the flanks.

white speckling on the dark back." Because of this lack of detail and since there was no direct comparison with Western Grebe, this record was never submitted for a vote.

— 19 May 1987, Lake Osakis, Todd Co. (photos E, F). Although photo F is labelled "5/19/82... same bird as on nest," the bird more closely resembles the grebe in photo E (dated 5/19/87) than the 1982 individual in photo A, and it assumed the date on photo F should be 5/19/87. In color, photo F clearly shows a bright bill with definite orange tones, and the dark line on the culmen looks narrow and sharply delineated. However, photo E in color still shows definite orange color, but there appears to be duskiess on the upper mandible. Without written field notes, we unfortunately do not know if the film type or sunlight conditions are making the bill in photo F look more orange than it really is, or if the angle of the bird and sunlight conditions in photo E make the bill appear darker than it really is. Both photos show a more Western Grebe-like facial pattern except for the pale lores — but are they white or light gray? Also note the pale flanks in photo E. A most intriguing record that MORC will not have an easy time with.

— 29 April 1989, Big Stone Lake, Big Stone Co. This grebe was carefully studied in direct comparison with two Western Grebes: its bill was "bright, all-yellow... noticeably brighter than the two darker birds;" flanks were also paler than on the Westerns. However, "the pale bird's eye was bisected by the black cap, which extended through the eye to the top of the bill; below the eye was white and the lores were white." Because of this intermediate facial pattern, the observer chose not to submit this record to MORC, but there would be a strong case for its acceptance if it were voted on. According to Storer, an eye bisected by the edge of the black cap along the white lores favors Clark's Grebe over Western, especially since the bill and flank colors were also noted in direct comparison with Westerns.

III. Some Conclusions, Speculations and Advice

— As with all difficult identification problems, do not rely on only one field mark to identify a Clark's Grebe. It is always best to note as many field marks as possible and use these in combination to build up a positive

case for your identification.

— Until more research and experience clear up some of the uncertainties, a Clark's Grebe should probably only be identified in Minnesota if the bill color is clearly seen and unambiguous, and again only if it is noted in combination with other field marks, especially the facial pattern. Also, in my opinion, a grebe with an intermediate or hard-to-see facial pattern could still be identified as a Clark's if the bill color is correct and obvious, and if enough other secondary features are seen.

— If there are Western Grebes present, it would be very helpful, even essential, to directly compare as many of the suspected Clark's Grebe's characters as possible with these Westerns.

— Be aware that light conditions can greatly affect the appearance of a grebe, especially its bill and flank colors, and give the observer misleading impressions. Similarly, a photograph is easily affected by sunlight conditions, exposure and film type, also giving false impressions; a photo can also end up looking too dark or too light when published: in *Birding* (18:263), New York's first Western Grebe photo record ended up looking more like a Clark's Grebe on the printed page.

— Use special care in late summer, when full-grown juvenile Western Grebes are seen, and in fall migration, when basic-plumaged adult Westerns are possible. Such individuals are the ones most likely to show intermediate characteristics and be misidentified as Clark's.

— Minnesota's past Clark's Grebe records are still under review, and may continue to be so for some time. Therefore, the current Accidental status determined by MORC is quite tentative until more years go by and more records come in from birders more aware of this species and its field marks. Also, its Accidental (a) status listed in the official March 1988 Checklist may well change to Accidental (b) since there are no specimens and since all Clark's Grebe photo records are under review. Early indications suggest that this species may actually be rare but Regular in Minnesota.

— Authorities are still somewhat uncertain about which Clark's Grebe field marks are diagnostic, which ones are only helpful, which are useless, and which ones are subject to age and season. Indeed, there is still dis-

agreement on whether or not it should have been split in 1985, and I would not be at all surprised if the two grebes were eventually re-lumped: after all, mixed Clark's/Western pairs and intermediate adults have raised viable young.

— Finally, don't assume that all the grebes you see can or should be identified — again, take another look at those photos from Lake Osakis! If in doubt, call it a Western, which

is far more likely in Minnesota. Or just let it go as unidentified. Please remember that watching and identifying birds is supposed to be fun, not a headache. And, above all, there's nothing wrong with just watching that handsome, unidentified grebe glide by, occasionally take a graceful dive, or even, if you're lucky, dance madly with its mate across the surface of the lake. **8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

Heron Lake Area Restoration Project

Introduction by John Schladweiler

I. Introduction

Heron Lake in Jackson County has been making ornithological news in Minnesota since shortly after the first settlers arrived in the area. The lake was a favorite birding spot for Dr. Thomas S. Roberts and contributed much of the information in many of his publications on Minnesota bird life. As recently as 1986, the lake was still making ornithological history when the state's first Common Black-headed Gull was seen and the first nesting record for the Little Gull was confirmed.

Unfortunately the lake has deteriorated over the years from the standpoint of quality of wildlife habitat. Wetland drainage within the watershed has contributed to extreme water level fluctuations and reduced wildlife habitat. Diking and pumping around the edges of the lake have reduced the size of the lake and compounded the water fluctuation problem. Intensive agriculture within the watershed has caused massive amounts of silt to be deposited in the lake. Water turbidity has been caused by high numbers of bottom-feeding fish, such as carp, buffalo fish and bull-heads and by wind and wave action. Lake levels have been difficult to manage because of the excess flow of water through the system, inadequate capacity and poor management of dams within the system, and because of large silt deposits.

Attempts to reverse the deterioration of Heron Lake have been attempted and discussed by various groups for many years.

However, differing ideas on solutions, lack of money, and vested interests have until now prevented any meaningful restoration attempts for the entire watershed of Heron Lake.

Recently the Heron Lake Restoration Association (Appendix I) has put forth a proposal which seeks to address the real problems and their solutions. This plan is the result of numerous meetings over a period of many years by different groups. The plan has been presented to members of the Minnesota Joint Venture Action Group (Appendix II) for approval as part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Implementation of this plan during the next ten years would restore habitat conditions so that once again this lake could be the birder's mecca that it was in Dr. Robert's time.

The plan as presented is reproduced here in its entirety with only a few minor editorial deletions and modifications. Comments on the plan would be welcome.

II. Description of Project Area

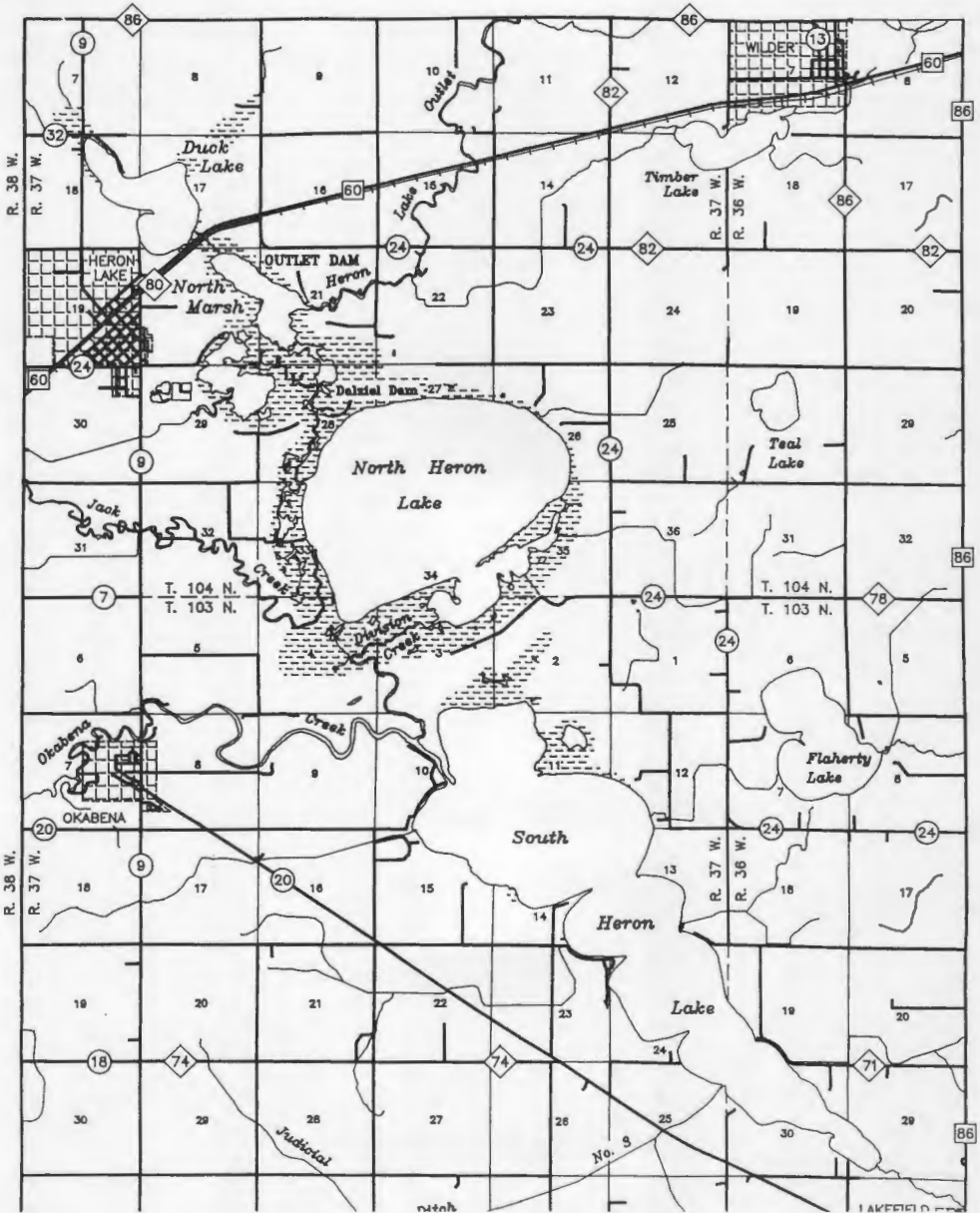
A. Location

Heron Lake and its watershed are located in southwestern Minnesota and include portions of Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray and Nobles counties.

B. Acreage

Heron Lake basin, including the sub-basins of North and South Heron Lakes, North

HERON LAKE — JACKSON COUNTY



Marsh and Duck Lake, originally contained 8,251 surface water acres. Subsequent drainage, diking and pumping have encroached and reduced the surface acres in the sub-basins to about 6,400 acres. Even in its reduced state, Heron Lake is the second largest Min-

nesota lake south of the Twin Cities. Only Swan Lake in Nicollet County at 10,000 acres is larger. Heron Lakes' watershed extends over 30 miles west and includes 302,080 acres, or 472 square miles.

C. Physical Characteristics

Heron Lake, including its four sub-basins, is a long shallow prairie lake that stretches about ten miles between the towns of Heron Lake and Lakefield.

South Heron Lake contains depths of up to six feet and its bottom ranges from muck to sand and gravel. It is nearly five miles long and averages about a mile in width. The shoreline is varied and includes numerous points. Its major sources of water are creeks, springs, drainage systems, and back flows through Division Creek during high water. There has been a decline in the abundance of vegetation during recent years.

North Heron Lake is shallower and contains a bottom that varies from muck to sand. It is an elliptically-shaped basin and is fed by Division Creek from South Heron Lake, Jack Creek, and several drainage ditches. Although ringed with cattails, it is an open body of water with few submergent plants during the fall and early spring. Duck Lake is similar.

North Heron Lake flows north and Duck Lake flows south into North Marsh, which outlets through the recently rebuilt state dam and the Heron Lake outlet stream to the Des Moines River. North Marsh contains a good growth of cattails but few submergent plants. At low levels, waterflow from North and South Heron Lake is impeded by blockages at the North Heron Lake outlet, Dalziel Dam (a private dam in the channel between North Heron Lake and North Marsh), and a mucky delta a few hundred yards upstream from the state dam. At high flow, all of the sub-basins become one, with neither dam controlling the water, and Heron Lake outlet channel (because of its limited capacity) becomes the water control.

Heron Lake has deteriorated and lost most of its once lush vegetation because of intensive agricultural practices, wind and water erosion, high carp, buffalo fish and bullhead populations, abnormally high rainfall, difficult to manage water levels, and point and nonpoint source pollution. Its present turbid waters have limited value for man, fish and wildfowl. It is a symptom of the problems in its watershed.

D. Ownership

1. Adjacent to Heron Lake

There is a five-acre state owned public access and a 9.3-acre wildlife management area

on the west shore of South Heron Lake. There are also two county parks, each with a public access and three undeveloped accesses off township roads to South Heron Lake. The dam on North Marsh is state-owned, but access for management purposes is only across private land. Except for roads, farmsteads and towns, most of the land in the Heron Lake watershed is privately owned and intensively farmed.

2. Within Remainder of Project Area

There are 17 state-owned wildlife management areas containing 1530 acres, and one federal waterfowl production area containing 101 acres within the project area (see Appendix III for individual listing.) Middle Des Moines River Watershed Board owns five acres next to a 20-acre holding pond, and 22 acres in a siltation pond. The Nature Conservancy owns 52 acres on North Heron Lake and 180 acres on South Heron Lake.

III. Project Proposal

A. Statement of Purpose and Objectives

The Heron Lake Area Restoration Project is a long-term watershed effort to stop and reverse degradation of a once nationally-known waterfowl lake, and the watershed that feeds it. Major objectives include reduction of flooding, water quality improvement, reduction of carp, buffalo fish, and bullhead populations, and an increase in the quality and quantity of waterfowl and other wetland wildlife habitat. The increase in wildlife populations will bolster and diversify the local economy.

B. Contribution to Waterfowl Objectives

Habitat improvements in the Heron Lake Area Restoration Project would increase attractiveness to migrating birds and produce more nesting birds.

Improving water quality and restoring wild celery and other underwater plant beds could again make the lake attractive to migrating Canvasbacks. Around the turn of the century, 700,000 Canvasbacks were observed feeding on the lake at one time. In recent years, peak numbers of Canvasbacks have been in the hundreds.

The two separate flocks of 3000 Canvasbacks seen on Clear (Brown County) and Augustana (Cottonwood County) Lakes during the spring of 1989, however, is evidence that

substantial numbers of Canvasbacks still fly through western Minnesota. A high percentage of the Canvasbacks migrating through Minnesota now use the Mississippi River backwaters but they are vulnerable to oil spills on the river. Enticing more of them to use traditional migrating habitats would decrease the population's vulnerability to disaster. Other migrating and nesting waterfowl such as Northern Pintails, Mallards, and Gadwalls would also be attracted.

Likewise, acquisition and development of wetland restorations, impoundments, and adjacent permanent nesting cover on public and private lands would increase local waterfowl production. Improvements in water quality and wetland vegetation would improve valuable brooding habitat.

C. Contribution to Other Species

1. Game Birds and Animals

Substantial increases in wetlands, grassy cover, woody cover, and food plots will not only increase populations of waterfowl, but also pheasants, Gray Partridge, squirrels, rabbits, and deer. All will attract people for hunting, observation, and other wildlife-based recreation.

2. Nongame

Wetland habitat improvements of this magnitude may be used by endangered species such as Piping Plover and Peregrine Falcon, and threatened species such as the Bald Eagle. Species of special concern in Minnesota that could be benefitted include American Bittern, Common Moorhen, Osprey, Wilson's Phalarope, Forster's Tern, American White Pelican, Marbled Godwit and King Rail. The Franklin's Gull is an example of a more common species that would benefit greatly. North Heron Lake's Franklin Gull production has declined from 300,000 in 1937 to a recent annual average of about 15,000. The project could benefit as many as 150 nongame species. It has been, and could be, a better birder's mecca.

3. Furbearers

Additional habitat will also produce more muskrat, fox, mink, and raccoon. The result is a source of recreation and additional income for the local economy through trapping.

4. Fish

A valuable by-product of watershed and

wildlife management efforts will be an improvement in game fish populations and fishing. Although no active fish management will be done in Heron Lake (including all four sub-basins) except for restocking South Heron Lake in the event of a catastrophic loss (MN DNR Section of Fisheries will restock the lake to rebuild desirable fish populations to a fishable level), improvement in water quality, reduction in carp, buffalo fish and bullhead populations, and return of vegetation will enhance fish and fishing. MN DNR Section of Fisheries will be actively managing fish populations in other area lakes that have more management potential, such as Flaherty, Graham, Kinbrae, Fulda and Timber Lakes (assuming the lakes have public access and meet other Section of Fisheries management criteria).

IV. Habitat Improvement on Public Land

A. Extent of Future Management

Continued cooperative operation of the state dam will be necessary to anticipate flood waters and reduce bounce, while providing adequate water in North Heron Lake for hunting. Other water management will include channel cleanout between North Heron Lake and North Marsh, along with temporary draw-downs to restore vegetation, and reduce carp, buffalo fish, and bullheads.

Water level management will also be needed in the many restored wetlands and water impoundment projects that will be necessary in the watershed. A detailed hydrology study to identify water retention sites and predict stage and flow reductions is needed. Although it may require new technology, fish barriers on Heron Lake and other area lakes are vital to project success.

Establishment and maintenance of prairie grass and other nesting cover on acquired public lands will be necessary, as well as, an accelerated program for improvement of cover in roadsides. Woody cover and winter food plots will be developed at the rate of two per square mile. Good soil-conserving practices will be used on any land that is cropped. Wildlife management areas and public accesses will be properly marked with signs for public use. Intensive and innovative wildlife management techniques will be used such as Mallard nesting baskets, goose nesting platforms, Gadwall transplants, predator exclosures, shorebird feeding areas, public

use restrictions, and increased enforcement efforts. Evaluation of the entire of the entire program will be important.

B. Development and Management Responsibilities

The state dam will continue to be operated by the Middle Des Moines Watershed Board under a cooperative agreement. Other development and management will require a DNR resident wildlife manager, assistant manager, technician, acquisition specialist, secretary and laborers as needed. Extensive use of fish and wildlife-oriented organizations, local units of government and individual volunteers will be required. Staff of private organization such as the North Heron Lake Game Producers Association biologist will also be important. Sufficient equipment will also be necessary.

C. Estimated Costs and Funding

About \$5,800,000 would be necessary for the first ten years of intensive management (includes personnel, equipment and supplies). The funding could come from the Minnesota Action Group, Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) contributions, county and legislative appropriations.

V. Habitat Improvement on Private Lands

A. Extent of Future Development and Management

This project will include an aggressive, cooperative effort with monetary incentives for landowners to create and restore wetlands, reduce diking, control erosion, control sediments, plant nesting cover, establish woody cover, promote field windbreaks, and provide winter food. Every effort will be made to piggyback projects on existing federal and state agricultural programs, because successful private land programs minimizes the amount of necessary land acquisition. Long-term extension of Coservation Reserve Program and RIM programs is of the highest priority.

B. Development and Management Responsibilities

DNR and agricultural agency personnel will provide technical advice and cost sharing. Landowners could volunteer to participate. Local organizations, watershed board

and volunteers can assist in bringing landowners and technical personnel together on projects. Counties could assist with zoning ordinances.

C. Estimated Costs and Funding Sources

About \$3,500,000 would provide for a 20-year intensive private lands effort including cost-sharing, personnel and equipment. Funding could come from the Minnesota Joint Venture Action Group, RIM, donations, federal and state agricultural agencies, and legislative appropriations.

VI. Habitat Protection

A. Threats

Flooding, erosion and sedimentation, point and nonpoint source pollution, intensive farming operations, high carp, buffalo fish, and bullhead populations, and lack of nesting cover are the major contributors to wetland degradation and lack of waterfowl production.

B. Protection Methods

The most important part of this project for waterfowl production, reduction in flooding, water-related developments, and public recreation is the acquisition of approximately 7,500 acres, pending the outcome of an intensive watershed hydrology study. A combination of lands in and around Heron Lakes and upstream in the watershed will be high priority. Land would be purchased from willing sellers only. Perpetual easements will be used when judged beneficial to the project.

An intensive hydrology study is necessary to identify restoration sites, erosion control practices, suggest dike modifications, locate diversions from outside the watershed, identify impoundment sites, determine benefits of water management actions, and evaluate cost/benefit ratios. Required work would include a review of all previous studies and existing data, monitoring stream flows, collecting precipitation data, locating springs, measuring direct watershed contributions, feasibility surveys, and collecting other baseline data. A full time hydrologist will be needed for two years.

Solutions to pollution problems will require water quality monitoring and cooperative efforts between state, county, and municipal governments.

C. Priority

Areas will be identified pending completion of a detailed hydrology study.

D. Agency Roles

MN DNR would be the lead agency in acquisition efforts, although assistance would be sought from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), private organizations, and individuals. All DNR purchases must be approved by a county board resolution.

E. Acquisition Costs and Time Frame

It is estimated that a total of \$9,500,000 would be necessary over ten years of acquisition effort. Because timely appraisal work is the key to a successful acquisition project, MN DNR would seek an acquisition specialist position to work on Heron Lake and Swan Lake. Funding would be sought from the Minnesota Joint Venture Action Group, USFWS, RIM, and private donations.

VII. Information and Education

A. National Wetland Wildlife Interpretive Center

An integral part of this restoration project is eventual establishment of a national wetland wildlife interpretive center. It could be a focal point for tying the various facets of the project together. It would also be a year-

around tourist attraction because of its proximity to major roads (within four miles of Interstate 90). Sources of funding could be a combination of state, county and private sources.

VIII. Summary and Conclusion

Despite many valuable past efforts and projects by agencies and local groups, much more will be necessary to reverse a century of deterioration in Heron Lake and its watershed. Its national reputation as a waterfowl and wildlife-based recreation producer can be restored only with a massive cooperative effort. The cost summary for the next decade is as follows:

IV. Habitat Improvement on Public Land Management	\$5,800,000
V. Habitat Improvement on Private Land Management	\$3,500,000
VI. Habitat Protection (Acquisition)	\$9,500,000
VII. National Wetland Wildlife Interpretive Center	<u>1,800,000</u>
Total	\$20,600,000

APPENDIX I

The Heron Lake Resoration Association Voting Members

Jackson County Board of Commissioners
Middle Des Moines Watershed Board
South Heron Lake Improvement Association
North Heron Lake Game Producers, Inc.
City of Worthington
Jackson County Conservation League
Jackson County Soil and Water Board

Non-voting Technical Advisory Members

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Jackson County Soil Conservation Service (Jackson County)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
(Section of Wildlife)
(Section of Fisheries)
(Division of Waters)

APPENDIX II

Minnesota Joint Venture Action Group Partners in Minnesota Action Group

Box 7, DNR Building
 500 Lafayette Road
 St. Paul, MN 55155-4007
 (612) 296-3344

Ducks Unlimited
 Minnesota Waterfowl Association
 The Nature Conservancy
 Minnesota Conservation Federation
 Pheasants Forever, Inc.
 Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
 Minnesota Department of Agriculture
 Minnesota Extension Service
 U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 Board of Water and Soil Resources

APPENDIX III
Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)
and
Federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs)
within the Heron Lake Project

Cotton-Jack WMA (in project boundaries only)	Jackson County	78 acres	Not in watershed
Winkler WMA (in project boundaries only)	Jackson County	78 acres	Not in watershed
Crosse WMA	Jackson County	66 acres	
Valleau WMA	Jackson County	335 acres	
West Heron WMA	Jackson County	9 acres	
Schoberl WMA	Murray County	128 acres	
Scheuring WMA	Murray County	22 acres	
County Line WMA	Murray County	137 acres	
Fenmont WMA	Murray County	110 acres	
Scheuring WMA	Nobles County	36 acres	
County Line WMA	Nobles County	97 acres	
Fenmont WMA	Nobles County	86 acres	
Einck WMA	Nobles County	49 acres	
Fulda WMA	Nobles County	149 acres	
Fury WMA	Nobles County	26 acres	
Groth WMA	Nobles County	54 acres	
Kinbrae WMA	Nobles County	69 acres	
(116 total acres in the watershed)			
Luebben WPA	Jackson County	101 acres	

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Highway 15 South, New Ulm, MN 56073.

A Great Gray Owl Influx, Winter 1988-89

Kim R. Eckert

Starting in October 1988 and continuing into April 1989, a near-record number of Great Gray Owls was recorded in Minnesota. As near as can be determined, 115 separate individuals were involved in this invasion, only a few individuals fewer than during the record winter season of 1983-84 when 122 Great Grays were seen. Duplicate sightings of what are believed to be the same individuals are not figured into the total, although such judgments are somewhat subjective, based on how transient or sedentary the owls tended to be, on how far away an owl was from one reported earlier, and on the interval of days between sightings. While there may be a few duplicates included in the final total, this number is negligible when compared to the number of owls undetected or unreported.

The first Great Gray considered to be part of this influx was one found 15 October 1988 near Meadowlands, St. Louis County, and the last was the one found dead on Park Point in Duluth on 16 April 1989. Not included are those owls found in March or April on presumed breeding territory. Although there were a few sightings before the last half of November and an isolated flurry of reports in mid-March, the bulk of this influx occurred from late November through mid-February. During this time the number of reports of new owls came in at a fairly steady pace overall, although there were concentrations of sightings on 17-18 December, on 2 January, and on 14-15 January (these dates, however, involved weekends when more observers were out in the field).

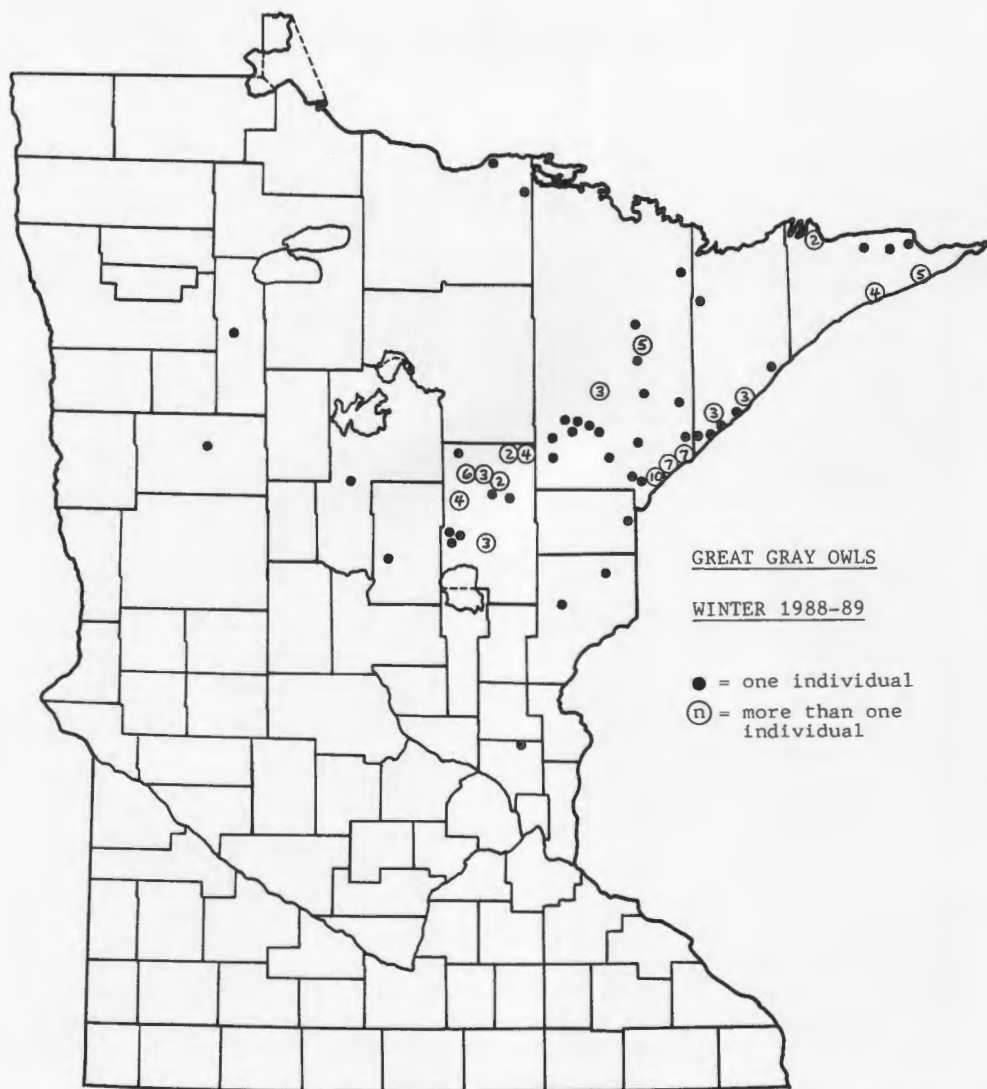
As the accompanying map (p.116) shows, almost all of the Great Grays reported were in the boreal forest zone of the northeastern quarter of the state, with most of the records from Aitkin County, the Duluth area, and the North Shore of Lake Superior. It should be noted that these three areas receive a lot of coverage by birders, so that one must take into account the presence, or absence, of observers when plotting the geographical distribution of this (wintering Great Gray Owls) or any bird population. In any event, it is clear that Great Grays were scarce or absent in some areas where there was adequate ob-

server coverage: most of the Cook County and eastern Lake County portions of the North Shore, the so-called "Big Bog" country in Beltrami and Lake of the Woods Counties, and in southern Minnesota (the lone report was from Cedar Creek Natural History Area in Anoka County on 22 March).

Relatively few owls (seven) were found dead, which at first might suggest that small mammals, the Great Gray Owl's principal prey, were in adequate supply, since a shortage of prey tends to result in owls found dead from starvation or killed by vehicles while forced to hunt along highways where prey is easier to find. However, the evidence suggests that food was relatively scarce since there was a large and unprecedented mortality of Boreal Owls at this time found dead from starvation; most of the Great Grays reported moved around alot in apparent search of prey, since most could not be relocated by other birders after they were first found; and at least a few Great Grays were observed preying on larger mammals like rabbits and hares, apparently unable to find smaller prey.

There was a large influx of Boreal Owls at the same time, the largest winter invasion ever in Minnesota (or anywhere?) by a wide margin. (This phenomenon will be the subject of a future article in *The Loon*.) Barred Owls as well were reported in above average numbers, and, as the accompanying comparison chart shows, previous Great Gray Owl invasions were paralleled by similar irruptions of Boreal and/or Barred Owl. The chart also shows that Great Gray invasions were also noted in parts of Canada in the same winters when there was a Minnesota influx; there was also a large invasion in eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S. during the winter of 1978-79 when Great Gray numbers in Minnesota were about normal. During the past winter, however, Wisconsin was the only other area to record a Great Gray influx, as that state had its first significant irruption ever with over 20 individuals.

This 1988-89 invasion was most similar to the record 1983-84 invasion in several respects: the season total of individuals was about the same; roughly one-third of the owls



were concentrated along the North Shore of Lake Superior; relatively few individuals were reported in southern Minnesota or were found dead; and most of the owls did not remain long at most locations, searching new areas in pursuit of scarce prey. The main difference between these two seasons is that more owls were concentrated in Aitkin County in 1988-89, and that several Great Grays were seen in Beltrami and Lake of the Woods Counties where none were noted this past winter.

This 1988-89 influx was longer in its dura-

tion than any of the previous Great Gray years, as shown in the comparison chart (p.117). The peak movement lasted a full three months, a bit longer than in 1968-69 when the influx peaked during two periods in two different areas: late December through mid-February in the north; and late January through early March in southern Minnesota. Although the number of separate individuals was apparently not added up for the 1968-69 season, it is clear that this was by far the largest Great Gray movement into southern Minnesota. It is even possible that the 1968-

COMPARISON OF MINNESOTA GREAT GRAY OWL WINTER INVASIONS

Year	Season Total	"Inland" North Shore	North Shore	South	Found Dead	Peak Movement	Influx of Other Owls	Great Gray Influx Elsewhere	The Loon Reference
1965-66	37	37 incl. N. Shore	?	0	?	early Dec - early Jan	Boreal O.	Ontario	38:44-45
1968-69	68 [±] (55-84)	14-30 ?	15-21 ?	26-33 ?	11-15 ?	late Dec - mid Feb & late Jan - early Mar	Boreal O.	Manitoba	41:36-39
1977-78	58	15	43	0	14	late Dec - early Feb	Boreal & Barred O.	Manitoba	50:63-68
1983-84	122	76	42	4	5	early Dec - mid Jan	Barred O.	Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec	56:143-147
1988-89	115	70	44	1	7	late Nov - mid Feb	Boreal & Barred O.	Wisconsin	

'69 irruption could have been the largest ever in Minnesota overall, since there were far fewer observers reporting owls than in the two most recent invasions. Also note the number of dead owls found in 1968-69, about the same number as in 1977-78. Of final note in the chart is the concentration of Great Grays along the North Shore in 1977-78, a much higher percentage than in other years. This season is also notable for the relatively

large number of Great Grays (and Boreal Owls) found hunting during midday hours.

Finally, I would like to thank the many observers who reported Great Gray Owls this past winter, especially Sandy Lunke (Hovland, Cook County), Warren Nelson (Aitkin County) and Steve Wilson (Lake County) who kept track of, and even mapped out, the Great Grays in their areas. **8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

Project FeederWatch

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

If you noticed a big drop in the numbers of birds at your feeder last winter, you weren't alone. Thousands of observers contributing data to Project FeederWatch documented a decline in feeder activity that extended across the entire continent.

Over 85 million Pine Siskins were estimated to visit feeders during the winter of 1987-88, an amazing invasion year, while the numbers in 1988-89 nose-dived to less than half that figure.

In eastern regions, conspicuous decreases at feeders were also seen for Common Redpoll, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Cardinal and most blackbirds. Pygmy Nuthatch and White-crowned Sparrow were in short supply west of the Mississippi.

How do we know all this? Over 7,000 people across North America brought their

hobby of bird feeding to new heights, by participating in Project FeederWatch. They recorded bird sightings from their feeders for ten two-day periods between November and April, and sent data to the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology for analysis.

FeederWatchers also determined which bird was most likely to visit your feeder — Dark-eyed Junco (seen at 73% of all feeders continent-wide). House Sparrow was the most abundant species, averaging ten birds per feeder throughout the winter. Which bird species are most abundant at feeders varied considerably from one region of the continent to another — only five species visited more than half of all feeders. Besides junco and House Sparrow, this list included Black-capped Chickadee, American Goldfinch and Downy Woodpecker.

But Project FeederWatch documents not

only the numbers and kinds of birds at feeders, it also looks at the effects of weather, habitat and food supply. Many people in the eastern part of the continent blamed last winter's lackluster feeder attendance on the weather, suggesting that mild temperatures and lack of snow gave birds access to natural foods which reduced their dependence on feeders. Early indications from Christmas Bird Counts, however, are that the birds simply weren't there — even "in the wild."

Where were they? We know that tree-seed eaters such as siskins, redpolls and nuthatches exhibit large annual variations in winter range. And, in some cases, we know where these birds were last season. There was no lack of Pine Siskins in western regions, which also hosted grosbeaks and American Goldfinches in abundance. In addition, generous tree-seed crops in certain parts of Canada may have kept many finches in the northern boreal forest.

Most of the other birds missing from feeders last winter eat weed seeds, grain and insects, and these birds do not appear to have moved elsewhere. It is possible that the severe droughts of the past several years reduced breeding populations by diminishing the abundance of their usual foods. The six-fold increase in avian predators at feeders last

winter might support this hypothesis. If prey was lacking away from feeders, Sharp-shinned Hawks and other raptors might have been forced to concentrate on feeders. This coming winter's FeederWatch data may help answer this and other questions.

FeederWatchers are now embarking on a new season, and you are invited to join. You need not be an expert bird watcher to participate, but you must be able to identify birds that commonly visit your feeders on one or two days every two weeks throughout the winter, and record the numbers you see on simple computer-readable forms.

In return for your participation you'll receive two issues of 'FeederWatch News', featuring helpful information about feeding birds and analyses of the abundance and distribution of feeder birds in your region and across North America.

Join thousands of observers working together to monitor winter bird distribution across our continent. Simply mail your annual registration fee of \$9 with your name and address to: **Project FeederWatch, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850** (make checks payable to 'Project FeederWatch').

Corrections

Probably just about every reader of *The Loon* noticed the duplication in the Notes of Interest of Steve Carlson's Prairie Warbler article (*The Loon* 61:82-83 and 93-94). This was a most important observation, but it wasn't necessary to publish it twice!

Vol. 61:26. Delete the Big Stone County breeding record for the Common Nighthawk (BH).

Vol. 61:61. Change the Morrison County date to 22 April.

Vol. 61:67. Delete 9/30 Cook SOL under Swainson's Hawk.

The Editor

The Red-tailed Hawk Impersonator

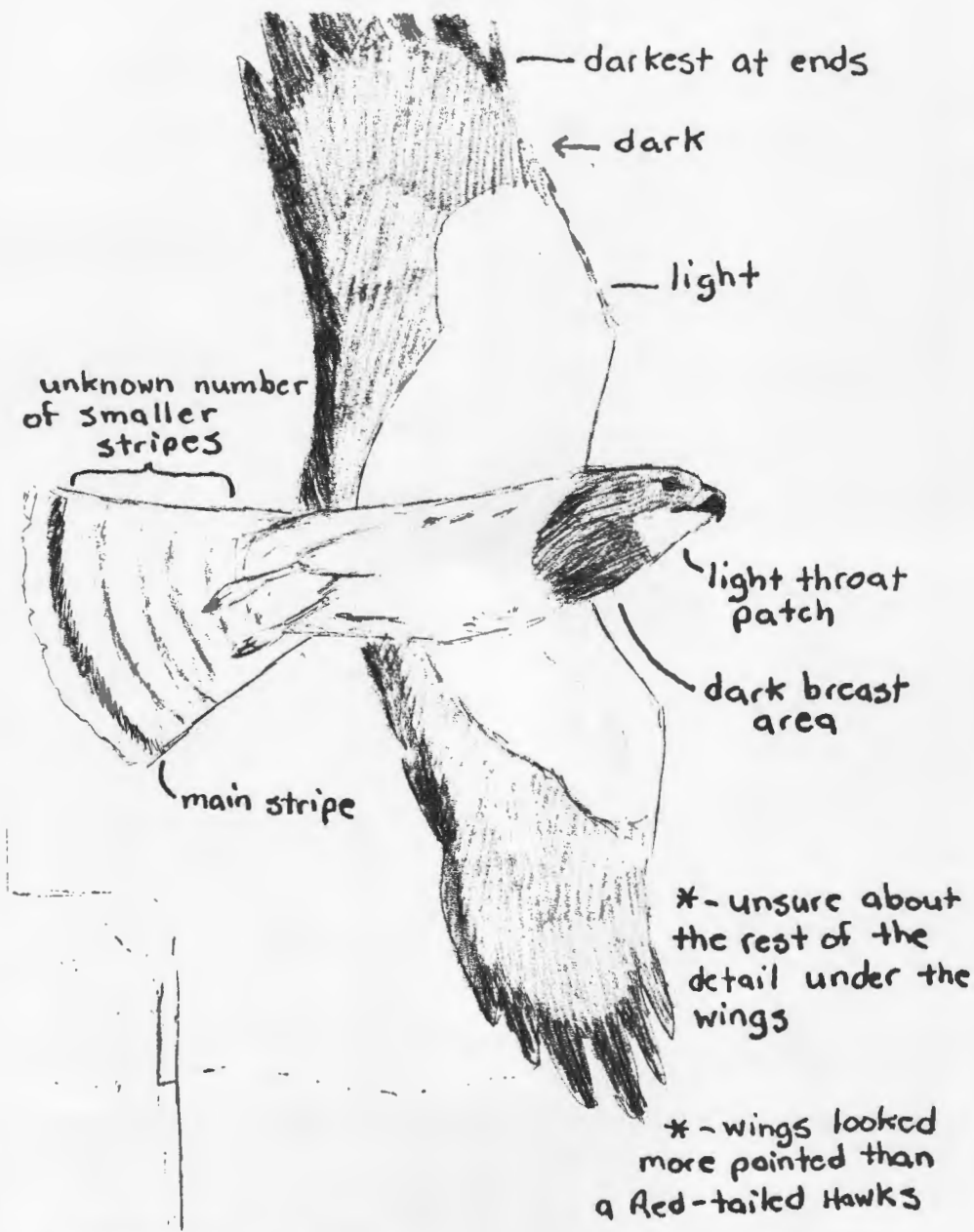
Paul Hetland

To me, the whole event was like seeing Bigfoot, with feathers. Ever since I started birding, I've longed to see this beautiful and elusive Buteo. The obsession really began with sighting my first Red-tailed Hawk, and every time I'd see one, I would swear up and down that it was a Swainson's Hawk. But, of course, a man named Roger Tory Peterson in his book would always say, "No you didn't!" Well, I was pretty discouraged to say the least — until 26 March 1989, Easter Sun-

day, an Easter I'll always remember, the day I finally crossed paths with this "Authentic Swainson's," not the impersonators I was previously used to; the real McCoy!

It was extremely foggy that Easter Sunday. You couldn't even tell where the sun was unless you had a compass. I was at my grandparents' home, near Sauk Centre (in Todd County), when two of my cousins and I decided to leave the festive celebration and go on a bird hike. I purposely didn't bring my





SWAINSON'S HAWK

PAUL HETLAND
3/26/89

camera and binocular (which I wish now I would have anyway) for fear that the moisture would ruin the film and since the fog was so close, I don't think a person could focus properly anyhow. The area around their place is perfect Red-tailed country with its open fields and scattered woods. The thought of actually sighting a Swainson's Hawk had crossed my mind a great deal lately because I had seen many Red-taileds migrating through, over a hundred of them just the day before. I could only identify about half as being Red-taileds, the rest as unknown buteos. Though I really didn't expect to see a Swainson's today, the thought was still there in the back of my mind. The three of us were walking along quietly, so not to startle any bird in the area; nothing! On the way back we were... well... pretty discouraged; all we had seen were a couple of House Sparrows, so unless you're some kind of nut, you'll have to agree that this was not the sort of outing that dreams are made of! Then through the fog (it was like those fantastic birding experiences "Big-shot" birders have, the kind you wish you would have — only better) we saw a perched hawk. My heart pounded with excitement, the adrenalin flowed. Could it be? I mean... ah... a... no it couldn't be, could it? We crept closer to get a better look through the fog. Obviously it hadn't detected our presence yet. Then, only a few feet away, it stood in all its

glory, every single detail of the bird's feathers was now quite clear, an adult Swainson's Hawk. It had a ruffled, wild, windblown look, even though there was no wind. Its head was turned away from us, but you could plainly see the dark brown breast patch so typical of the Swainson's; a picture right out of a field guide. "Don't go!" I thought; I wondered if this ever happened to Janssen or Eckert. Then it slowly turned its head to look directly at us; a chill ran down my back and it wasn't the fog. With its head in view, it was easy to see the white patch above the bill and on the throat. Then with one more look around and wave of a wing, it disappeared into the fog, just as mysteriously as it had greeted us. But before it was out of sight, it displayed itself in flight. You know, I couldn't sleep a wink that night. All I kept thinking — could this be just an odd coincidence that seeing the Swainson's happened to fall on Easter, or was it something more than that? Whatever the answer, I can't wait until Christmas — imagine the possibilities! **Paul Hetland, Rt. 2, Box 127, Browerville, MN 56349.**

Editors Note: This was not only an unusual observation for Paul Hetland, but it also represents the earliest spring migration date for the northern half of the state and is one of the few records for Todd County.

Proceedings of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee

Kim R. Eckert

The following records were voted on, January-June 1989, and found to be Acceptable:

- House Finch, 6/28-12/13/88, Faribault, Rice Co. (vote 7-0).
- Iceland Gull, 12/18-23/88, St. Paul, Ramsey Co. (vote 7-0).
- Black-legged Kittiwake, 12/3-5/88, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:45-46).
- Indigo Bunting, 11/26-27/88, near Buf-

- falo, Wright Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:43).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull, 11/30-12/9/88, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:45).
- Ross' Goose, 11/22/88, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:50).
- Great Black-backed Gull, 12/2-11/88, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; *The Loon* 61:39).
- Black-headed Grosbeak, 11/18-26/88, Ait-

kin, Aitkin Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:47-48).

—Iceland Gull, 12/5/88, Black Dog L., Dakota Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:48-49).

—House Finch, 12/28/88-1/15/89, Fergus Falls, Otter Tail Co. (vote 7-0).

—Ross' Goose, 4/2/89, Carey L., Cottonwood Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:89-90).

—Kentucky Warbler, 5/28/88, Nerstrand Woods S.P., Rice Co. (vote 7-0).

—Kentucky Warbler, 8/20/88, Lebanon Hills Park, Dakota Co. (vote 5-2).

—Brambling, 12/26/88-4/6/89, East Grand Forks, Polk Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:56-58).

—Boreal Owl, 2/18/89, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:85-87).

—Ross' Goose, 3/30-31/89, near Spring Valley, Fillmore Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:88-89).

—Black-legged Kittiwake, 4/20/89, Bemidji, Beltrami Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:84-85).

—Ross' Goose, 4/17/89, L. Byllesby, Goodhue/Dakota Co. (vote 6-1; **The Loon** 61:88).

—Ross' Goose, 4/30/89, Rice Lake S.P., Steele-Dodge Co. (vote 7-0).

—Tricolored Heron, 5/4-7/89, Bloomington, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:82).

—Lesser Black-backed Gull, 5/6/89, near Minnesota City, Winona Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:83-84).

—Black-headed Grosbeak, 5/6/89, O.L. Kipp S.P., Winona Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:84).

—Western Tanager, 5/7-11/89, Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:91).

—Prairie Warbler, 5/13/89, Elm Creek Park Reserve, Hennepin Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:82-83).

—Laughing Gull, 5/27/89, Whitwater WMA, Winona-Wabasha Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:152-153).

—Laughing Gull, 5/28/89, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:93).

—House Finch, 5/12/89, Duluth, St. Louis Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:151).

—Ross' Goose, 5/20-25/89, Thief Lake WMA, Marshall Co. (vote 7-0).

—White-eyed Vireo, 5/13/89, near Rochester, Olmsted Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:94).

—Ferruginous Hawk, 5/10/89, near Eden, Dodge Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:92).

—Lazuli Bunting, 5/14/89, near Detroit

Lakes, Becker Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:141).

—Clark's Grebe, 5/22/89, Moorhead, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:150-151).

—White-eyed Vireo, 5/28/89, near Moorhead, Clay Co. (vote 7-0; **The Loon** 61:148-149).

The following records were voted on January-June 1989, and found to be Unacceptable:

—Osprey, 12/17/88, near Lanesboro, Fillmore Co. (vote 0-7). The sketchy description gave no definite or useful field marks, with the identification based almost entirely on shape, but other raptors can have an Osprey-like shape at times. Also the observer reported he had only limited experience, and he was not using binoculars at the time. The consensus was that the bird was probably an immature Bald Eagle.

—Common Nighthawk, 11/2/88, White Earth L., Becker Co. (vote 3-4). The identification was based primarily on the "peent" vocalizations of the bird, but it is possible other calls of other species could also be described in the same way; more importantly, nighthawks apparently only give their "peent" call during summer while on their breeding territory, not in late fall. Also the plumage description was too sketchy for such an unusual record, with a "white bar" on the wing and a "white neck" being the only content of the description.

—Blue Grosbeak, 5/22/88, Murphy-Hanrehan Park, Scott Co. (vote 1-6). This previously Acceptable record was reconsidered, and the majority voted not to accept because of the brief description of the reported pair. The female was only described as "brown with a bit of rust on wings;" and the male's entire description was "medium sized blue bird with grosbeak bill, rusty wing bars," and it was felt this description could also fit a second-year male Indigo Bunting.

—Ferruginous Hawk, 1/7/89, La Moille, Winona Co. (vote 2-5). The observation was made somewhat casually, with the observer having claimed to have seen this species more than once before in Winona. Only one useful mark — the "dark V of the legs" — was given, but this was mentioned only in passing with more emphasis given to other features shared by other Buteos, especially Krider's-type Red-taileds. (Also, when very pale or albinistic Red-taileds fly overhead, the darkest part of their underparts is their tarsi; the

feathering on the tarsus is dark on a Ferruginous, and should be stated as such). Also, two individuals were reported, which tends to make the record less credible.

—Wood Stork, 6/16/87, Hassel L., Swift Co. (vote 2-8). All ten members vote in the case of potential first state records. Although it was agreed a Wood Stork may actually have been seen, the description was too vague and incomplete for a first state record. The identification was based on its "dark neck and head and a dirty-yellow slightly decurved bill," and a "short black tail." However, the legs and wings were not described at all, and it was unclear how the tail could have been visible under the folded wings. It was also

possible the bird could have just been a pelican, which sometimes has some duskiness on the head and yellowish bill.

—Red-necked Phalarope, 4/23/89, Lake Maria, Carver Co. (vote 1-6). The sketchy description did not say anything diagnostic about the plumage, and the identification was based entirely on this phalarope's smaller size in comparison with adjacent Pectoral Sandpipers. However, since Wilson's Phalarope can also be smaller than a Pectoral, it was felt the bird was more likely a Wilson's, which is much more likely in April than a Red-necked. 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.



BOOK REVIEWS

SOUTH AMERICAN BIRDS, A PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE TO IDENTIFICATION: by John S. Dunning. Harrowood Books, Newton Square, Pennsylvania. 1987. 351 pp., 1,400+ color photographs. \$47.50; paper \$35.00.

This book "describes all the birds likely to be seen in interior South America including the fresh water lakes." It is a massive undertaking. Over 2,700 species are described, and color photographs are included illustrating 1,352 of them. The vast majority of these often striking photographs were taken by the author, making the work a memorial to one man's skill, persistence, and commitment to quality. Dunning travelled throughout South America for over 25 years capturing and photographing living birds with his wife Harriet; most of the last five years of his life were spent in the field photographing the inland water birds of the continent. The organization, production and informational content

of this book have been improved over the author's previous work (*South American land birds*, 1982, same publisher), and the inland waterbirds have been added. The majority of the photographs were taken in a small, portable, cloth "studio" (details of which are included, p. 315), where the author had ultimate control over the lighting. The results are good-to-excellent, nearly shadowless images that, although small (approximately 3.5x4 cm), are reproduced quite well on the whole. The guide is a foremost one for birdwatchers, and is organized to this end. Color images are interspersed with the text, so that range maps, descriptions, and images occur **together**, with two columns of species accounts per page. Descriptions of species without an accompanying photograph frequently refer the reader to a photograph for comparison. Range maps appear quite good; although I haven't the expertise to critique their accuracy, they were prepared by Dr. Robert Ridgley, a collaborator on the work.

If errors in the maps exist, I suspect it is the reproduction process that is at fault (I note, for instance, that the range of the Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsuta*) appears to have been off-set in printing so that it occurs several miles out to sea along the northern coast). The size of the book (14.5 x 22.5 cm) is such that it can be easily taken into the field. In that the entire continent is covered, at present it is the only book of its type. As one might expect, some degree of detail must be forsaken to encompass such a tremendous avifauna. Descriptions are brief, and although field marks are given (underlined in the text), no vocal descriptions are given (there is space to write them in if you have a small hand). Altitudinal zones and "foliage-type preferred" are described in a terse code. Commendably, migrants are included, although I question the usefulness of including a spring-plumaged Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) and a female Connecticut Warbler (*Oporornis agilis*) without a male: both of these will be confusing to neotropical ornithologists. In addition, the only field character given for the Louisiana Waterthrush is "throat unstreaked" — untrue and therefore useless. Arrangement is taxonomic by family, with an effort to keep birds of the same genus and general size together. This can cause difficulty for beginners to this diverse and unfamiliar avifauna, so an introductory guide to the birds of the continent is provided wherein good, brief descriptions of groups are arranged beside black-and-white illustrations of "typical" group representatives. In addition, characters useful to entire groups frequently appear at the top of pages in the text. Many are wont to complain about the suitability of photographs for field identification purposes. To these I might say that the majority of these birds have probably not yet been painted. Nevertheless, to those who wish to use this guide in the field, I recommend taking along regional guides as well, if they exist (e.g. *A guide to the birds of Colombia*, by S.L. Hilty and W.L. Brown). In summary, despite its inadequacy as an "all encompassing" guide to South American birds (a goal that may never be achieved), this book covers an area unique to field guides, and does so in a way that is at once aesthetically appealing and informative. Only with the completion of at least two more volumes of Ridgley and Tudor's massive *The*

birds of South America (one volume complete, four volumes intended) will the subject area of this field guide be more thoroughly addressed. This book offers portable, affordable, and well-illustrated coverage of the birds of South America, and would be an excellent addition to the library of anyone interested in birds, regardless of their intentions to visit this remarkable continent before more of its natural habitats fall to development. **Kevin Winker, Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.**

PEREGRINE FALCON POPULATIONS: THEIR MANAGEMENT AND RECOVERY Tom J. Cade, James H. Anderson, Carl G. Thelander and Clayton M. White, Eds. The Peregrine Fund, 5666 W. Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, ID 83709, 1988, xviii, 949 pp. illus. + plates. \$45. From a conference in Sacramento, CA. Nov. 1985.

It is fair to say that this is the second of two landmark publications about Peregrine Falcons, each of them the result of an important conference. In 1965, Joseph J. Hickey assembled at Madison, Wisconsin a group of Peregrine experts to discuss the virtually world-wide decline of the species, and to consider the possible reasons.

The proceedings of that meeting were published in 1969 by the University of Wisconsin Press under Joe Hickey's editorship, and you are lucky indeed if you still have a copy. It has become a bona fide collector's item. Keep your copy in a vault. Fortunately the present volume includes keynote addresses by Joe Hickey and Derek Ratcliffe (from England) which review very nicely the 1965 conference. Its important conclusion was that the widespread environmental contamination with organo-chlorine pesticides was the primary cause of the decline.

This gave environmentalists the ammunition needed to campaign for pesticide control, and Joe Hickey was one of the most effective of American scientists, testifying repeatedly in Washington and elsewhere about the need for prohibiting the general use of DDT. He was awarded the Aldo Leopold Memorial Medal in 1972 at the North American Wildlife Conference in Mexico City for this effort.

Peregrine populations had been wiped out

so completely in many parts of their range, that, to reestablish nesting populations in much of North America without waiting decades for a slow, natural reestablishment when the pesticide factor had been eliminated, it was deemed necessary to release captive-reared birds.

Dr. Tom Cade of Cornell University then became a key person. He developed successful methods for producing young Peregrines in captivity, and with his Peregrine Fund developed facilities for producing the Peregrines in large numbers for release in areas where they had been known to nest. Birds from Cade's Peregrine Fund facilities were released primarily in the eastern U.S. and in selected Rocky Mountain sites. Other workers concentrated on other locations, as described in this volume in the 81 papers by 127 authors from 22 countries.

It was appropriate that 20 years after the Madison conference, another should be held to bring up to date what had been accomplished. The sub-titles of the two volumes tell the story. For the Madison meeting it was *Peregrine Falcon Populations/Their Biology and Decline*. For the 1985 conference volume it was *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Management and Recovery*. It tells a truly remarkable and gratifying story.

The comprehensiveness of the treatment is impressive. The end plates present a map of the world showing the distribution on six continents of the 19 subspecies of Peregrines. The 81 chapters are organized into ten parts which deal with the status of populations since 1965; 12 papers on DDT and other chemical problems; 12 on captive propagation, reintroductions, and management; 12 on the dynamics and ecology; three on geographic variation; and five on "humanity and the Peregrine," which includes accounts of falconry in the Arabian Gulf and in the United States.

Readers of *The Loon* will be pleased with the chapter by Patrick Redig and Harrison Tordoff on "Peregrine Falcon Introductions in the Upper Mississippi Valley and Western Great Lakes Region," and also with excellent photos of the Multifoods Tower in Minneapolis where Peregrine releases have been so successful. Redig and Tordoff, who have led the successful efforts to reestablish Peregrines in Minnesota and other upper midwestern states, explain that in the pre-DDT era

there were about 50 pairs in four states, all gone by the early 1960s.

The reintroductions began in 1976, and were renewed with greater effort in 1982. The greatest problem has been the loss to Great Horned Owls of released young falcons. Two approaches have been used: since the owls do not generally occur in the sections of large cities where tall office buildings are found, but prey is abundant — chiefly Rock Doves and European Starlings — many releases have been made on such office buildings, and several successful nestings have resulted in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

When it became clear that young Peregrines would not survive if released near Great Horned Owls, it was concluded that the owls must be eliminated, and this was done in three years near the Peregrine release site. As a result, Peregrines released at two hack sites near the Weaver Dunes in southeastern Minnesota survived and became established in the area.

Clearly, the Great Horned Owl population suffered no permanent damage from the loss of a few near the hack site, but such owl control has not been practiced in most parts of the continent, and as a result many of the Peregrine releases have failed. Redig and Tordoff deserve credit for having met this problem head on, by securing approval of the conservation agencies and the interested bird-oriented citizens in the region before proceeding.

In Europe the Eagle Owl, similar to our Great Horned, but somewhat larger, has been the major predator on Peregrine releases there. Ironically, captive-reared Eagle Owls were being released also, to reestablish it in areas in Sweden, West Germany and Switzerland where it had been extirpated, often in the very locations where Peregrines were being released.

Since it took so long to prepare the conference proceedings for publication, it is gratifying that the summary and conclusions bring the population information more nearly up to date. The conference and the volume which resulted are truly monumental in assembling the known information about the Peregrines. It will remain the standard reference for decades to come. It includes much information hitherto scattered in dozens of other publications, but also much that is new. The papers on banding and migration studies developed

for the conference are especially interesting. Of 4,477 Peregrines banded on the east and gulf coasts and in Wisconsin, 208 or 4.65% were recovered in widely scattered points, including Alaska and Greenland in the north and numerous points in Latin America.

While primarily a reference, the book contains many sections which are interesting reading. The general picture is of a conservation success story, but there are differences of opinion and conclusions; for example, in the relative importance of natural increases from remnant populations, and of releases of captive-reared birds.

The summary by Ian C. T. Nisbet of the Massachusetts Audubon Society highlights these differences. To focus on the needs for further research he poses "Four Irreverent Questions": What caused the population crashes? What is known about the population dynamics of Peregrines? What is being learned about the biology of the Peregrine from captive breeding programs? And where have all the captive-reared birds gone?

Such questions are answered in part by the papers in the volume but it is agreed that more research can form the basis for improved management. The importance of predation on Peregrines by Eagle Owls in Europe and Great Horned Owls in the New World is a particularly good example because they so frequently favor the same areas for nesting.

It is easy to recommend this book without reservation. "Comprehensive," "authoritative," "intriguing," and "beautiful" are all applicable. The Peregrine Fund can be justly proud. **Gustav A. Swanson, 1020 E. 17th St., Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

A FIELD GUIDE TO LITTLE-KNOWN AND SELDOM-SEEN BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA by Ben, Cathryn, and John Sill, Illustrations by John C. Sill, Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta-Memphis, 82 pp., \$7.95.

Novice and expert birders alike can rejoice that a field guide has finally appeared that illustrates and describes many of those birds that you may have seen and could not identify because they were not to be found in the standard references. Finally! the yellowlegs species are clearly delineated — from the Greatest Yellowlegs through the Slightly Les-

ser Yellowlegs to the Very Least Yellowlegs. When we were trying to sort through the eight species of gulls which were present at Black Dog last December, there may have been a Gila Gull (*Larus precipitatus*) present which we didn't consider or couldn't identify. The authors provide us with useful tips on song, range, habitat, special equipment, and good observation hints; e.g., the Small Flycatcher, (*Empidonax smallii*), which they tell us is "Most often seen when birding alone." Included is a bibliography of unusual references such as *Spelunkers Guide to Birding* by N.D. Dark, as well as additional information on sources for finding new species, and a handy form for taking field notes. This small book is recommended for all birders who are in need of new perspective, and a hearty good laugh. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902.**

THE RITES OF AUTUMN, A FALCONER'S JOURNEY ACROSS THE AMERICAN WEST by Dan O'Brien, the Atlantic Monthly Press, New York 1988, 192 pp., \$17.95.

Birders who appreciate the contribution of falconers to the revival and successful reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons may learn alot from this small book by Dan O'Brien who worked with The Peregrine Fund, Inc. for several years in the Rocky Mountain region, which encompassed 500,000 square miles from southern Colorado and Utah to Canada, releasing laboratory-bred falcons on the mountain cliffs. This book is the story of one female Peregrine whose mates were killed by a Golden Eagle, and whose chances of survival in the wild were thus virtually nil. O'Brien decided to try to teach her to hunt and survive in the wild, and to imitate the natural autumnal migration of the migratory waterfowl and falcons. This well-written account details this experiment and provided many insights into the techniques of falconry, its sport and its art, as well as taking the reader inside the falconer's heart and mind. A surprising ending caps a very good read. This book is highly recommended for all birders to get more of the "big picture" in understanding what is involved in saving an endangered species. **Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 SW 15th Avenue, Rochester, MN 55902.**



Carolina Wren, 19 February 1989, Coon Rapids, Anoka County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

The Winter Season (1 December 1988 to 28 February 1989)

Kenneth J. La Fond

Gulls were the big news this season with an unprecedented eight species showing up in the Twin Cities area: at Lake Harriet, Black Dog Lake and on the Mississippi River in St. Paul. Both Black-backed, an Iceland and a Black-legged Kittiwake were among the visitors. Also worthy of note was the second state record for the Brambling with one at an East Grand Forks feeder for much of the period. Northern owls invaded the northeast and north central regions with Kim Eckert tabulating over 100 Great Gray Owls (*The Loon* 61:115-117) and Steve Wilson documenting more than 100 dead Boreal Owls. Most "normal" winter visitors were present in fewer numbers when compared with last

year (hereafter, l.y.), and winter finch numbers were down substantially.

December started out warm with daytime temps in the 30s and 40s, with several cold spells in mid-month. January had about average temperatures initially with very cold weather on the 10th (45 below at Roseau). The month ended above normal but temperatures turned sharply colder in early February and then remained slightly below normal for the balance of the month. Snow cover was generally heavy in the north half, especially in the Red River Valley. In the south, however, the drought continued, especially in the west central and southwest regions, as snow cover varied from zero to four inches.

Sixty-one seasonal reports and 42 Christmas Bird Counts (hereafter CBCs), were received and resulted in a total of 144 species, about normal for the season.

To all of you who assisted, be you rank amateur or world class expert, a heartfelt "thank you," since it is your hard work that makes this report possible.

Common Loon

December migrants in Douglas 12/7 KH and Itasca 12/17-21 TS. Also reported from Stoney Point, St. Louis Co. on 12/10 AB, 1/1 DG and 1/22 AB.

Pied-billed Grebe

Reported in Rochester from 12/2 until 12/15, PP.

Horned Grebe

Reported in Minneapolis on 12/5 DC, TT.

American White Pelican

Two again overwintered in Albert Lea NH.

Double-crested Cormorant

Reported on the Bloomington and Bemidji CBCs. Also reported in Cook Co. 12/10 AB, Lake 1/1 JL and Goodhue 1/2 AB. Two individuals at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. remained throughout the winter.

Great Blue Heron

Reported on the Bemidji, Fergus Falls, St. Paul and Afton CBCs and in Wright 12/3 DO and Mower 1/30 RRK. Late in the period it was learned that up to 10 individuals had probably overwintered at Pig's Eye, Ramsey Co. fide RJ.

Tundra Swan

Late migrants in Roseau 12/5 KH, Wabasha 12/1 WDM (3,000), Houston 12/15 EMF (30) and the Minneapolis North CBC. The increasing number of released and free flying Trumpeter Swans in the state indicates that care must be exercised when identifying out of range/date swans. The three flying over Sleepy Eye on 1/28 would more likely be Trumpeters. The two seen on the Mississippi River in Hastings, Dakota Co. in Dec. and Jan. JD and the two at Prairie Island, Goodhue Co. 1/28 KL appeared to be Tundra Swans.

Mute Swan

Three present at Lake Rebecca, Hennepin Co. between 12/24 and 1/21 m.ob.

Greater White-fronted Goose

One in Rochester during CBC week.

Snow Goose

Reported on the Bloomington and Rochester CBCs.

Canada Goose

Reported from four north and 24 south counties. This year's CBC total of 42,509 is slightly less than 1.y.

Wood Duck

Reported on the Bemidji, Grand Rapids, Willmar, Minneapolis North, St. Paul NE, Afton and Owatonna CBCs. Eight overwintered in Nicollet JF.

Green-winged Teal

One on the Rochester CBC.

American Black Duck

Overwintered in Cook and reported from 13 south counties. Statewide CBC total of 62 (105 1.y.).

Mallard

Reported from 34 (41 1.y.) counties. Statewide CBC total of 13,354 (15,692 1.y.).

Northern Pintail

A December report from Ramsey 12/18 AB and two February reports from Dakota 2/30 DZ (4) and 2/23 JD.

Northern Shoveler

Reported in Scott until 1/7 m.ob.

Gadwall

Overwintered in Scott with additional reports from Mower, Martin, Dakota and Lake 12/10 AB.

American Widgeon

December reports from Washington, Hennepin and Dakota. A January report from Carver 1/29 AP and a February report from Nicollet 2/24 JCF.

Canvasback

December reports from Dakota, Wabasha,

Martin and the St. Paul and St. Paul NE CBC. One February report 2/19 RJ in Ramsey Co.

Redhead

Cook Co. until 12/13 m.ob., the St. Paul CBC, Wabasha 2/19 AB and Blue Earth 2/24 JCF.

Ring-necked Duck

Cook until 12/9 KMH and Dakota 1/5 AB and 1/7 DZ.

Greater Scaup

Grand Marais and St. Paul CBCs and in Scott AB and 1/7 DZ.

Lesser Scaup

Reported on the St. Paul and Excelsior CBCs and in Anoka 12/8 KL and Wabasha 12/7 WDM. January reports from Scott 1/5 AB and 1/31 ES. One February report, Ramsey 2/19 RJ.

Harlequin Duck

One near the Lester River in Duluth 12/17-1/19 m.ob.

Oldsquaw

Reported on the Grand Marais CBC (270).

White-winged Scoter

One remained in Grand Marais until 12/17 m.ob.

Common Goldeneye

Reported from 21 counties, mostly in the east and central regions.

Bufflehead

Reported on the Grand Marais, Duluth, St. Paul NE and Bloomington CBCs. Also reported in Wabasha 12/2 and 12/28 WDM.

Hooded Merganser

One remained in Cook until 12/21 KMH. Reported near Ely, St. Louis Co. on the Shagawa River on 1/3 SWMS and 2/11 SS. Two possibly overwintered in Dakota m.ob. Also reported in Winona, Wabasha, Martin and Nicollet 2/24 JF.

Common Merganser

Reported from 13 counties (20 l.y.) including Wabasha 12/1 WDM (5,000) and 1/1 KL

(600). Statewide CBC total of 177 (2,656 l.y.).

Red-breasted Merganser

Reported on the Bemidji and Duluth CBCs and in Cook, Hennepin and Dakota.

Ruddy Duck

Reported in Hennepin 12/2 BS and Dakota 12/5 DC.

Bald Eagle

Reported from 37 (43 l.y.) counties in all but the SW region. Again overwintered in Duluth KE. Statewide CBC total of 115 (125 l.y.).

Northern Harrier

Reported on the Willmar and Cedar Creek Bog CBCs. Also reported in Wadena 2/8 DB, Dakota 1/2 AB, Goodhue 12/18, 1/15 AB and Rice 12/6 FKS.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Reported on the Grand Marais, Fergus Falls and nine additional central and south CBCs. A total of about 19 individuals (21 l.y.) including Aitkin 1/29 SC.

Cooper's Hawk

Reported on the Willmar, Faribault and Rochester CBCs. Also reported throughout the period in Dakota JD and in Ramsey on 2/24 DZ.

Northern Goshawk

Reported from four north, four central and one south region county.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Reported from five east central and SE region counties.

Red-tailed Hawk

Reported from Cook and St. Louis in the NE and 28 additional central and south region counties. Most abundant along the Mississippi River in the SE region. Statewide CBC total of 252 (240 l.y.).

Rough-legged Hawk

Much scarcer than last year with reports from only 17 counties, mostly in the east regions (39 l.y.). Statewide CBC total of 47 (195 l.y.).

Golden Eagle

Reported from ten counties in all but the NC Region. December reports include the Wabasha and La Crescent CBCs and Lincoln JG. The January reports are all in the west regions, Pope 1/16 BH, Norman 1/14 RJ, AP and Kittson 1/25, 26 TR. February reports from Nicollet 2/19 JB, Wright 2/12 AB, Pine 2/26 RJ and Lake 2/19 SWMS.

American Kestrel

Reported from 41 counties throughout the state (45 l.y.) including one that overwintered in Aitkin WN. Statewide CBC total of 118 (144 l.y.).

Merlin

Reported on the Baudette and Winona CBCs, Duluth 12/27-2/23 m.ob. and in Norman 1/14 RJ.

Peregrine Falcon

Reported in Duluth 1/14 fide KE, downtown Minneapolis 12/2-2/20 m.ob., Olmsted 12/27 JB and Winona 1/7, 22 JD.

Prairie Falcon

One in Hennepin near the International Airport 12/28-31 m.ob. (*The Loon* 61:42-43) and in Moorhead, Clay Co. 12/25 SDM.

Gray Partridge

Reported from 28 counties with a statewide CBC count of 282 (659 l.y.).

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from 40 counties in its range (49 l.y.), with a CBC total of 500 (620 l.y.).

Spruce Grouse

Reported from near the Brule River in Cook KMH and from numerous locations in Lake mainly along Co. Rd. 2, TH #1 and Forest Road 102 m.ob.

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 23 counties in its normal range; CBC total of 141 (201 l.y.).

Greater Prairie-Chicken

More reports than usual. Twenty-five on the Crookston CBC and reports from Norman, Clay, Wilkin, Otter Tail and Wadena.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reports from Kittson, Marshall, Lake of the Woods and Aitkin.

Wild Turkey

Reported from Wabasha, Olmsted, Winona, Fillmore and Houston.

Northern Bobwhite

Reported during the Wabasha CBC week (wild?) and in Houston (EMF).

American Coot

Overwintered in Fergus Falls SDM and reported in December from the Twin Cities and Rochester.

Common Snipe

Reported at two locations in Hennepin 1/15-21 SC and on the St. Paul NE, St. Paul, Winona, La Crosse-La Crescent and Fillmore County CBCs.

Ring-billed Gull

December migrants in Anoka 12/7 KL, Blue Earth 12/2 JB, Wabasha 12/9 WDM, and on the Minneapolis North, St. Paul and Bloomington CBCs. Recorded in Dakota at Black Dog Lake until 1/7 DZ and again on 1/22 TT.

Herring Gull

Recorded on the Grand Marais, Duluth and St. Paul CBCs. Present throughout the period on Lake Superior. In the Twin Cities a high count of 2,500 in Hennepin 12/5 SC, and last recorded in Ramsey on 12/23 RJ. Farther south in Wabasha they remained until 12/24 WDM.

Thayer's Gull

Reported in Lake 12/11 AB and at several Twin Cities locations until 12/23 m.ob.

ICELAND GULL

Reported at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. on 12/5 KE, SC, and in Ramsey 12/18 RG m.ob. (*The Loon* 61:48-49).

Glaucous Gull

North reports from Lake 12/10 AB and up to three in Duluth KE. Also present at several Twin Cities locations until 12/23 m.ob.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Fifth state record at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co., from 12/3 until 12/10 m.ob. (*The Loon* 61:3-4,45).

GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL

Recorded at Lake Harriet and Black Dog, Dakota Co., from 12/2 until 12/8 m.ob. (*The Loon* 61:3-4,39).

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

One at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. 12/3 to 12/5 m.ob. (*The Loon* 61:3-4,45-46).

Rock Dove

Recorded in 79 counties throughout the state and with a CBC total of 11,190 (17,698 l.y.).

Mourning Dove

Recorded in 26 counties in all but the NW region. Statewide CBC total of 420 (918 l.y.).

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from three central and five south region counties with a statewide CBC total of only 5 (11 l.y.).

Great Horned Owl

Reported from 41 counties throughout the state (36 l.y.) with a statewide CBC total of 81 (116 l.y.).

Snowy Owl

Continues to be scarce. Only one all season in the Duluth area fide KE and only one Twin Cities report on the 12/14 MRBA. Six additional reports, all from the western half of the state.

Northern Hawk-Owl

Reports from Carlton 12/22 fide PB, St. Louis at Stoney Point 1/16 DJ, Lake 2/1, 7 near Wilson Lake WH, Cook 12/2 WP and during the Grand Marais CBC week.

Barred Owl

Reports from 24 counties (19 l.y.) in all but the SW region with a total of about 45 individuals (33 l.y.).

Great Gray Owl

An invasion year with reports of more than 100 individuals, primarily in the northeast and north central regions (*The Loon* 61:115-117).



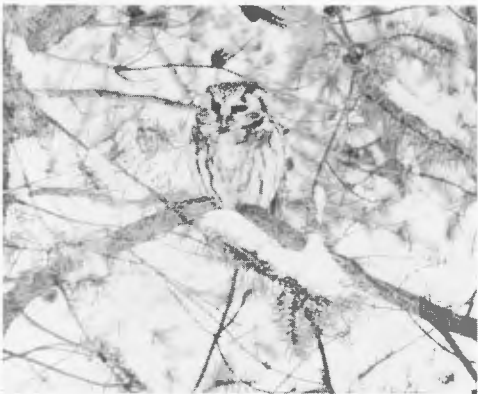
Barred Owl, Winter 1988-89, White Bear Lake, Washington County. Photo by Jim Rupert.

Short-eared Owl

Recorded on the Cedar Creek Bog, Marshall and Rochester CBCs and in Cottonwood 1/18-31 ED.

Boreal Owl

Also an invasion year with 100+ individuals recorded, almost all were found dead from road kills or starvation, primarily in the north-east region. Also reported in Clay 12/5 LCT, Kanabec 12/31 JG and in Minneapolis 2/18 SC (*The Loon* 61:85-87).



Boreal Owl, 31 December 1988, Pomroy Lake, Kanabec County. Photo by John Gislason.

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Reported on the Winona CBC. January reports from Brown 1/27 JS, St. Louis 1/15 DBe and Cook 2/29 WP. February reports from Wright 2/18 MBR, Cass 2/1 SWMS and Crow Wing 2/18 DE. Several of the February reports were of dead individuals.

Belted Kingfisher

Overwintered in Otter Tail and reported from 16 additional south and central region counties (same as 1.y.). Statewide CBC total of 24 (36 1.y.).

Red-headed Woodpecker

Reported from 11 south and central region counties (13 1.y.). Statewide CBC total of 20 (36 1.y.).

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from 36 counties (34 1.y.) throughout the state. Statewide CBC count of 334 (383 1.y.).

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Reported in Rushford, Fillmore Co. on 2/10 AP, (*The Loon* 61:41).

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 62 counties (54 1.y.) throughout the state. Statewide CBC total of 1474 (1,782 1.y.).

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 57 counties (56 1.y.) throughout the state with a CBC total of 934 (1,000 1.y.).

Three-toed Woodpecker

Only report: 2/22, Lake of the Woods Co. MK.

Black-backed Woodpecker

Reported on the Gunflint Trail North, Aurora and Beltrami Island CBCs. No other reports.

Northern Flicker

Reported from 15 south counties (25 1.y.) including a red-shafted race on the Lac Qui Parle CBC.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 48 counties (same as 1.y.) throughout the state with a CBC total of 175 (151 1.y.).

Horned Lark

Early north migrants in Todd 1/16 PH. Also reported from 54 additional counties in all but the northeast region. Statewide CBC total of 354 (1,014 1.y.).

Eastern Phoebe

No details were ever received regarding the individual reported along the Minnesota River at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. on 12/10 and on the 12/14 MBR. (If information is available on this observation, please send information to the Editor).

Gray Jay

Reported from 11 counties in its normal range.

Blue Jay

Reported from 79 counties throughout the state with a CBC total of 3,789 (4,817 1.y.).

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from Wilkin 1/29 SDM and eight counties in the northern regions including St. Louis, Sax-Zim 1/14 TW and Hermantown 1/24 fide KE.

American Crow

Reported from 75 counties throughout the state including all winter in Koochiching GM. Statewide CBC total of 6,043 (6,124 l.y.).

Common Raven

Reported from 15 north region counties and from Pine, Chisago and Isanti in the east central region. Statewide CBC total of 866 (727 l.y.).

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 77 counties (66 l.y.) throughout the state with a statewide CBC total of 9,801 (10,216 l.y.).

Boreal Chickadee

A statewide CBC total of 46 (40 l.y.) and reports from six northeast and north central region counties.

Tufted Titmouse

Observed at five different locations in

Rochester JB throughout the period and one or two seen daily in Houston EMF.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Fewer reports than last year. Seen only in 18 counties (37 l.y.) with a statewide CBC count of 231 (672 l.y.).

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 62 counties (same as l.y.) throughout the state. CBC total of 2,053 (2,600 l.y.).

Brown Creeper

Reported from 33 counties throughout the state with a total CBC count of 112 (202 l.y.).

CAROLINA WREN

Reported from Anoka near the Highway 610 bridge, 2/16-20 SC, m.ob. (See page 127 for photo of this bird and *The Loon* 60:188-189).

Winter Wren

Two reports: Hennepin, at the Bass Ponds 12/11 MBR and Houston at Beaver Creek Valley State Park on 2/18 FL.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Much scarcer than last year with reports



Odd-plumaged Black-capped Chickadee at feeder during Winter 1988-89, Castle Rock Township, Dakota County. Photo by Lois and Steve Kittleson.

from only St. Louis 1/19, Hennepin 12/19 SC and on the Crosby and Cedar Creek CBCs.

Eastern Bluebird

Reported in Duluth on 12/20 TW.

Townsend's Solitaire

Reported in Duluth at Park Point 1/21, Otter Tail in Dec. and Jan. SDM, Martin 2/21 RJ and in Fillmore 1/8 Spring Valley fide AP.

American Robin

Reports from 20 counties (28 l.y.) throughout the state with a statewide CBC total of 52 (494 l.y.). This years reports were all of singles or small groups with no large flocks seen.

Varied Thrush

Reported on the Crosby and Owatonna CBCs and in Lake 12/1-16 SS, Duluth 12/7 KE, Beltrami 1/18-22 fide KH, Hennepin 1/28 MBR, Washington, two locations 12/14 MBR and Minneiska, Winona February fide RJ.

Northern Mockingbird

Reported on the Bemidji CBC. First seen and photographed on 12/4 ESm.

Brown Thrasher

Reported in Aitkin 12/15-1/28 WN, Anoka 12/30 MBR and Dakota 12/31 JD.

Bohemian Waxwing

Reported from 12 north, five central and one south region counties (25 l.y.). Statewide CBC total of 3,288 (4,620 l.y.), with 2,168 on the Duluth count.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 17 counties in all but the SW region (30 l.y.). Total CBC count of 643 (2,058 l.y.).

Northern Shrike

Reported from 36 counties (43 l.y.) with a CBC total of 54 (same as l.y.).

European Starling

Reported from 79 counties with a CBC total of 13,289 (16,445 l.y.).

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Reported in Otter Tail 12/4 SDM.

Washington 1/8-23 PC, Martin 12/4 AB and on the Marshall CBC.

Northern Cardinal

Reported from six north, 14 central and 18 south region counties (32 l.y.). Statewide CBC total of 1794 (1,933 l.y.).

Rufous-sided Towhee

Reported in Mille Lacs from 2/2 to the end of the period WN, Bloomington 2/15 MBR and all winter near New Prague, Le Sueur Co. fide RJ.

American Tree Sparrow

Reported from 33 counties (36 l.y.) in the central and south regions. Statewide CBC total of 2,504 (5,656 l.y.).

Field Sparrow

One in Willmar from 12/25 until 2/10 RS and in Houston 12/17 RJ.

Vesper Sparrow

One at Black Dog Lake, Dakota Co. on 12/5 SC.

Fox Sparrow

One remained at a Duluth feeder until 12/29 fide KE.

Song Sparrow

Reported on the Duluth, St. Paul, Bloomington and Rochester CBCs and in Dakota, Jackson, Martin, Mower and Houston.

Lincoln's Sparrow

One in Martin 12/4 AB.

Swamp Sparrow

Reported in Martin 12/4 AB and at the Bass Ponds in Hennepin 12/17-24 TT and 1/23 SC.

White-throated Sparrow

Overwintered in Hennepin SC and Houston EMF. Reported in Red Lake 2/13 KL and until February in Duluth. Also reported on the Grand Marais, St. Paul NE, Mankato, Owatonna, Rochester and Winona CBCs.

Harris' Sparrow

One until late January in Otter Tail SDM and in Martin 12/4 AB.



Yellow-rumped Warbler, 8 January to 23 January 1989, Dellwood, Washington County.
 Photo by Pastor Colon.

Dark-eyed Junco

Reported from 45 counties (51 l.y.) throughout the state with a CBC total of 3,066 (8,161 l.y.).

Lapland Longspur

North reports from Polk and Norman, 1/14 RJ and Aitkin 12/31, 1/22 WN. Also reported from 13 central and south region counties.

Snow Bunting

Reported from 51 counties (45 l.y.), with a CBC total of 6,236 (5,494 l.y.).

meadowlark, sp.

One December report from Sherburne Co.

Red-winged Blackbird

Reported from Kittson and Lake of the Woods in the north and 15 south counties. Statewide CBC total of 272 (150 l.y.).

Rusty Blackbird

Reported from seven counties in all but the NW region.

Common Grackle

Reported from 27 counties throughout the state (29 l.y.).

Brown-headed Cowbird

Reported on the Bloomington, Faribault, Rochester, Winona, and La Crosse-La Crescent CBCs.

Northern Oriole

Reported on the Winona CBC.

BRAMBLING

One at an East Grand Forks, Polk Co. feeder until early April m.ob. Second state record (*The Loon* 61:56-58).

Pine Grosbeak

Reported from ten north central and north-east region counties. Statewide CBC total of 568 (1,621 l.y.).

HOUSE FINCH

Reports increasing. Otter Tail 12/18-1/15 SDM, Hennepin 1/16-26 (max. 29, m.ob.) Ramsey 1/19 AB and on the St. Paul (24 during CBC week), Faribault and Rochester CBCs.

Purple Finch

Fewer than last year with reports from only 24 counties (45 l.y.) and a CBC total of 343 (829 l.y.).

Red Crossbill

Reported in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Aitkin and on the St. Paul NE and Marshall CBCs.

White-winged Crossbill

Reported on the Grand Marais, Aurora, Hibbing and Duluth (221) CBCs. Also reported in Hennepin 12/23 DB, Rice 12/25 FKS and Cottonwood at a Mountain Lake feeder in February fide ED.

Common Redpoll

Reported from 30 counties throughout the state (38 l.y.) with a statewide CBC total of 1216 (3527 l.y.).

Hoary Redpoll

Reported on the Baudette and Crosby CBCs and in Koochiching 2/14 KL, 2/12 AB, Cook, late Feb. KMH and at two Duluth feeders in mid Feb. fide KE.

Pine Siskin

Fewer than last year with reports from 24 counties (54 l.y.) throughout the state. CBC total of 586 (4,933 l.y.).

American Goldfinch

Reported from 34 counties (52 l.y.) with a CBC total of 2,440 (3,166 l.y.).

Evening Grosbeak

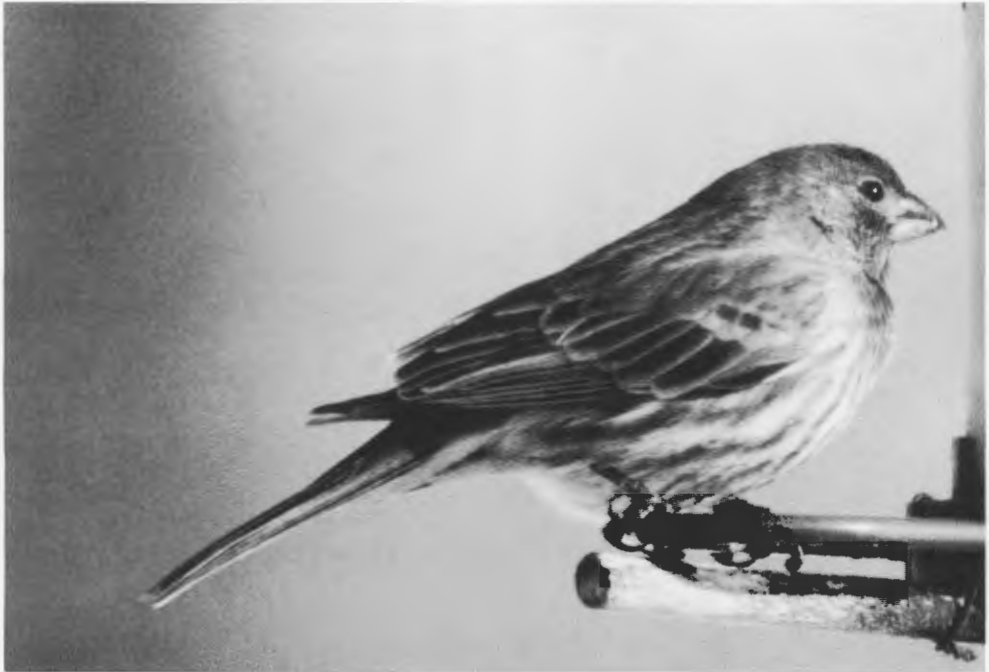
Reported from 13 north region and one central region counties (30 l.y.) with a CBC total of 59 (1,729 l.y.).

House Sparrow

Reported from 81 counties.

CONTRIBUTORS

ANWR	Agassiz NWR
PB	Parker Backstrom
TBB	Tom & Bette Bell
DBe	Dave Benson
AB	Al Bolduc
DB	Don Bolduc
JBo	John P. Bollenbacher
JB	Jerry Bonkoski
DC	Doug Campbell
PC	Pastor Colon
SC	Steve Carlson



House Finch, 21 December 1988, White Bear Lake, Washington County. Photo by Jim Rupert.

ND	Nelvina Dekam	JLi	J. Lind
JD	Joanne Dempsey	SOL	Sandy and Orvis Lunke
ED	Ed Duerkson	DWM	Don & Wynn Mahle
KE	Kim Eckert	GM	Grace Marquardt
FE	Fred Eckhardt	JM	Josh Maus
BSE	Bob and Steve Ekblad	SDM	Steve & Diane Millard
DE	D. Erickson	MM	Mark Moore
LCF	Laurence & Carol Falk	WN	Warren Nelson
BF	Buddy Feil	CO	Carol Oleson
HJF	Herbert & Jeanette Fisher	DO	Dan Orr
EMF	Eugene & Marilyn Ford	NAO	Nancy & Art Overcott
JF	John Frentz	JP	Johanna Pals
JG	John Gislason	PP	Paul Pedersen
RG	Ray Glassel	GP	Greg Pietila
TG	Tom Guttormsson	AP	Anne Marie Plunkett
KH	Katherine Haws	WP	Walter Popp
PH	Paul Hetland	TR	Thomas Rusch
BH	Bruce Hitman	RS	R. Seybert
KMH	Ken & Molly Hoffman	SS	Steve Schon
RH	Robert Holtz	SNWR	Sherburne NWR
NH	Nancy Holway	GS	Gary Simonson
JH	James Howitz	TS	Tom Sobolik
WH	W. Hart	JS	Jack Sprenger
RJ	Robert Janssen	ES	Evelyn Stanley
DJ	Doug Johnson	ESm	E. Smith
OJ	Oscar Johnson	KSS	Keith and Shelley Steva
MK	Martin Kehoe	FKS	Forest & Kirsten Strnad
BK	Byron Kinkade	TT	Tom Tustison
RRK	Ron and Rose Kneesern	TW	Terry Wiens
LK	Lance Kuester	SWMS	Steve Wilson/Mary Shedd
KL	Ken La Fond	DZ	Dave Zumeta
FL	Fred Leshner	MBR	Minnesota Bird Report
WL	William Longley	m.ob.	Many observers
JL	Jean Lecker	Note:	l.y. indicates last year

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

(Spring, Fall, Winter)

1. Bold face species name (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicates a species occurring as a Casual or Accidental in the State.
2. Bold face dates (**10/9**) indicates a date of occurrence outside the parameters of the dates listed in *Bird in Minnesota* (Janssen, R.B., 1987).
3. Bold face Counties (**AITKIN**) indicates a County of first or unusual occurrence for that species.

SUMMER

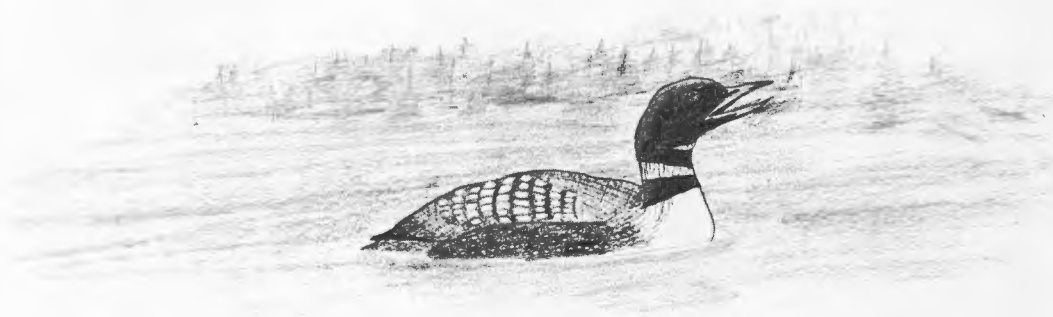
1. Same as all three above.
2. Counties in italics (*AITKIN*) indicate a first County breeding record.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT SUMMARY

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COMPILER</u>	<u>NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS</u>	<u>TOTAL SPECIES</u>
Afton	1/1/89	Boyd & Helen Lien	16	38*
Albert Lea	12/29/88	Mary Ann Dixen	10	29
Aurora	1/2/89	Chuck Neil	11	22
Baudette	12/28/88	Martin Kehoe	8	23
Beltrami Island	12/29/88	Martin Kehoe	7	9
Bemidji	12/17/88	Katherine Haws	16	31
Bloomington	12/17/88	Don Kratsch	23	43
Cedar Creek Bog	12/18/88	Boyd M. Lien	7	29
Crookston	12/17/88	Tom Feiro	8	19
Crosby	12/17/88	Jo Blanich	11	29
Duluth	12/17/88	Kim Eckert	53	53
Excelsior	12/17/88	Mike Mulligan	35	42
Faribault	12/17/88	Forest V. Strnad	20	38
Fergus Falls	12/17/88	Paul W. Anderson	16	38
Fillmore County	12/17/88	Anne Marie Plunkett	24	34
Grand Marais	12/17/88	Ken Hoffman	21	40
Grand Rapids	12/17/88	Tom Sobolik	17	32
Gunflint Trail North	1/2/89	Mark Stensaas	5	15
Hibbing	1/2/89	Janet Decker	13	25
Isabella	12/31/88	Steve Wilson	24	18
Lac Qui Parle	12/31/88	Micki Buer	4	34
La Crosse- La Crescent	12/17/88	Brian Christoffel	33	26*
Lamberton	12/17/88	Lee French	4	25
Mankato	12/17/88	Merrill Frydendall	11	32
Marshall	12/17/88	Joe Bennett	10	31
Mpls North	12/17/88	Donn Mattsson	17	36
Mountain Lake- Windom	1/2/89	Mildred Schmidt	14	29
New Ulm	12/31/88	John Schladweiler	9	31
Owatonna	12/17/88	Darryl Hill	42	37
Rochester	12/17/88	Jerry Bonkoski	42	51
St. Cloud- Collegeville	12/18/88	William Haider	5	20
St. Paul	12/17/88	Gerald Freeman	37	48
St. Paul NE	12/26/88	Persis Fitzpatrick	35	40
Sax-Zim	12/19/88	Mark Stensaas	5	25
Sherburne NWR	12/31/88	Ron Dexter	17	29
Tamarac NWR	12/21/88	Betsy Beneke	9	17
Wabasha	12/28/88	Donald Mahle	8	37
Warren	1/1/89	Gladwin A. Lynne	--	16
Wild River	12/17/88	Tom Anderson	14	34
Willmar	12/17/88	Ben Thoma	17	29
Winona	12/31/88	Walter Carroll	14	43

* Minnesota Records only

11008 Jefferson St. NE, Blaine, MN 55434



NOTES OF INTEREST

BLACK-NECKED STILTS IN STEVENS COUNTY — On 15 July 1989, Chuck and I heard of a possible Black-necked Stilt at a wildlife management area in Section 33, Scott Township, Stevens County. Upon our arrival at the management area, we met Jo and Steve Blanich and Diane and Steve Millard. At 6:00 p.m., we saw two Black-necked Stilts feeding with other shorebirds along the eastern shore of the marsh about 75 feet from us. With binoculars and spotting scope we watched the stilts for 30 minutes. Chuck and I decided the birds were probably a pair. One of the birds, which we believed to be the male, was jet black on its back, the back side of neck and crown, with the black extending down to just below the eye. The second bird, which was probably a female, was similarly marked but slightly duller brownish-black. Each bird had a white patch above the eye, and white on the forehead, cheeks, chin, front and sides of neck, and underparts. Each had a slender black bill. Their long legs were a rosy pink. Their call, a continuous "keek", was similar to an avocet's call. Chuck photographed the birds. Chuck and I have seen Black-necked Stilts in southern California, but it was exciting to see them in Minnesota. **Micki and Chuck Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

BLACK-NECKED STILTS, STEVENS COUNTY — Tom Carlson of the Fergus Falls Department of Natural Resources office called Gary Otnes on Wednesday, 12 July 1989, and reported two Black-necked Stilts at Clear Lake, one mile south and half a mile west of Alberta, Stevens County. Gary called me the same day, and the following morning, Marion and Gary Otnes and I drove to the area, but failed to locate the birds. On Saturday, 15 July 1989, the three of us returned to the area, and at 10:45 a.m. found the two stilts at a wildlife management area along County Road 9, four and one quarter miles south of the town of Alberta. The birds were alternately feeding and resting. The long, thin, pink-colored legs with the immaculate all-white underparts contrasting with the dark black upper parts were unmistakable identification field marks. The birds were especially beautiful when they made a short flight, displaying their long, pink, trailing legs. We observed the birds for about 15 minutes at 10:45 a.m., and then returned at 12 noon to observe them for another 15 minutes. Marion took several photographs of the birds with a 35mm telephoto camera at a distance

of about 70 meters. The birds were subsequently observed and photographed by many. **Gerald Winkelman, 520 W. Douglas Ave., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.**

Editor's Note: The two Black-necked Stilts, a male and female, were seen by numerous observers on 16 July and several others until 19 July when the area along Stevens County Road 9 was aerial sprayed for grasshoppers. This represents the first documented (photographed) record for the Black-necked Stilt in Minnesota. However, what was in all probability a Black-necked Stilt was observed at the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area, Roseau County on 24 and 25 April 1989. This record is still being considered by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee and if found Acceptable would be the first record for the state.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE AT GRAND PORTAGE — On Sunday morning, 28 May 1989, Bill Litkey and I chanced to stop at the Grand Portage, Cook County sewage ponds where we found about a dozen goldeneyes. As we scanned these birds, Bill noticed one goldeneye that was different. This bird was mostly dark overall resembling a female Common Goldeneye, except for a white breast extending from the forewing to the base of the foreneck. Other differences were also apparent upon closer observation. The back was dark but not the jet black of an adult and extended to the water line at the forewing area. There was a narrow row of almost interconnected whitish rectangular spots along the top of the wing. The sides were a dusky color. The head shape stood out, compared to the other goldeneyes present, in that it was a diagonally oriented, very oval shape, extending from the front top of the head to the lower rear. This shape resulted in the forehead arising vertically from the bill. The head was a darker color but not the iridescent dark color of an adult. Just behind the bill was a narrow indistinct whitish line or crescent extending from behind the lower base of the bill to well above the level of the eye along the fore edge of the head and bill base when viewed from the side. Noticing the dullness of the colors and the indistinctness and grayness of other areas, we presumed this bird to be a first year male Barrow's Goldeneye. **Al Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.**

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — On 11 May 1989, Chuck and I were watching the Rose-breasted Grosbeaks coming to the feeder in our yard in Cerro Gordo Township, Lac Qui Parle County. A bird came to the feeder joining the female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. It looked different in that it had darker chocolate brown streaking on its crown and back. This dark coloration contrasted sharply with its distinct buff-yellow, almost ochre, throat and breast. It also had buff-yellow, nearly ochre, eyebrow, median strip through crown, and at the base of the nape. But what was most distinctive about the bird was the lack of streaking on its breast, with the exception of two small flecks. Its sides/flanks had very fine streaks. Yellow wing-linings were noticed when the bird flew. It had two whitish-buff wingbars. Based on these field notes and after we noted comparisons to the female Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, we determined that this bird was a Black-headed Grosbeak. Micki has previous experience with this species — having seen them in southern California. We later confirmed our observations by referring to *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, and National Geographic Society *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. The grosbeak was observed at a minimum distance of three feet. It was observed with and without binoculars (8x30). This grosbeak was last seen at the feeder 26 May. **Micki and Chuck Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

LEAST TERN AT HASTINGS — On 12 June 1989, about 10:00 a.m., as I was driving on East 10th Street in Hastings past Bull Frog Pond, I stopped to look for a Prothonotary Warbler I heard singing in a tree near the road. After scanning the trees for a few moments, the bird came into sight and I started to pull away. As I moved beyond the trees and the

pond was in full view, I noticed a smallish tern flying over the water. I pulled off the road again and observed the bird with a 10x40 binocular. I was positive from the bird's size, white forehead and short forked tail that it was a Least Tern. To be sure, I consulted the only field guide I had with me at the time, National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. Following are notes jotted down while observing the bird. Size: smaller than Common or Forster's Terns — about the same size as a Black Tern. Head: black cap and nape — white forehead — black extends from back of head through eye, like a heavy black eyeline. Bill: yellow, dark on tip. Tail: forked but doesn't have long outer tail feathers. Would say 'short fork' — tail easy to see as bird fans tail frequently. Wings: very dark on outer primaries — very obvious as bird flies. Legs: yellowish — can see them clearly when bird dives to feed. Flight pattern: very fast wing beats — "fluttery" — hovers before diving. Vocalization: none heard. Length of time of the observation was about ten minutes. The tern came as close as 15 feet at times. It seemed to prefer feeding along the edge of the pond next to the road. When I left the pond, the bird was still there. I did return three more times that day and evening but did not see it again. **Joanne Dempsey, 1017 W. 14th St., Hastings, MN 55033.**



LAZULI BUNTING AT DETROIT LAKES — The above photo was taken on Sunday, 14 May 1989, at our feeder near Detroit Lakes, Becker County. The bird came to the feeder with Indigo Buntings and was only present for a few hours on that day. **Bill Wyatt, Rt. 4, Box 360F, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501.**

RETURN OF A LAWRENCE'S WARBLER? — 13 May 1989, Fillmore County Big Day; 14 May 1988, Fillmore County Big Day. Both years began with a visit to the Cabbage Rock area of the Big Woods (Section 8, Preble Township) southeast of Lanesboro. Both outings were led by Dr. Alden Risser. On both occasions the weather was partly cloudy, cool and not windy. On both Big Days a singing Lawrence's Warbler was sighted. Chris Hockema discovered it first in 1988. His brother John found it first in 1989. This rare hybrid of a Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warbler had a yellow head with black patches on both cheeks, a black throat, a yellow breast with no streaking, bluish-gray wings and tail, white wing bars; it was singing the typical Blue-winged Warbler song. The bird was very cooperative and provided all viewers with several good looks. Our curiosity was piqued. Was it the same bird both years or were there two different birds? Was it a summer resident or was it only a migrant? If it were breeding, what would its offspring look like? According to *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding* (Alfred A. Knopf, 1983): "Hybrids of the Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers rarely, if ever, mate with other hybrids, even in areas where hybrids are relatively frequent. They mate with either Blue-winged or Golden-winged Warblers, producing a number of hybrid variants as well as individuals indistinguishable from the pure parental species." According to Bruce Fall of the University of Minnesota, the Golden-winged Warbler does not breed in Fillmore County. This information and our observations tell us two things: the bird is a first generation hybrid, and he was not born in the area in which he was seen. Perhaps further excursions will reveal if the bird is breeding in the Big Woods, whether he is alone, and what his offspring look like. **Nancy Overcott, Rt. 1, Box 104, Canton, MN 55922.**

WHITE-EYED VIREO IN RICE COUNTY — It has been suggested by one of my good birding friends (and confirmed by several others) that I am "aurally dyslexic." I was painfully reminded of that affliction on the morning of 7 June 1989, as I was birding through the northern end of the Cannon River Wilderness Area in Rice County. I heard a bird song and knew only what it wasn't. It wasn't anything that I could remember hearing recently. The song was coming from an area of dense shrubs with scattered small (20 ft.) trees in an otherwise rather heavily wooded area along the Cannon River. I moved halfway toward the sound, stopped and "pished" a few times, and the bird moved into view. After seeing its yellow spectacles, whitish throat and belly, and white eye (actually the iris), I realized that I was seeing a White-eyed Vireo. Although not a first for me, having seen it on a number of occasions while birding Florida and Texas, it was my first sighting in Minnesota. Recognizing this as unusual, at least for Rice County, I began to take notes. During the twenty minutes that I watched it, the vireo completely circled me, at times moving to within eight yards. Other field marks were jotted down: black bill, yellow flanks, two white wing bars, top of head yellow-gray, nape and side of head gray, back gray to olive-greenish. It stayed low in the dense shrubbery moving every 20 to 30 seconds and singing every five to seven seconds employing at least five variations on a theme. One song began with a catbird-like meow followed by a five note warble and another began with a rather sharp buzzy trill followed by four notes on a lower pitch. After it caught a small gray moth and ate it, I decided I had seen enough and moved slowly out of the area. The next morning I returned with Ray Glassel and saw it again. Although I birded the area several times during the next week, I did not see it again and had negative responses from a number of birders who were there looking for it. **Gene Bauer, 1232 E. Woodley, Northfield, MN 55057.**

KENTUCKY WARBLER AT LAC QUI PARLE STATE PARK — A male Kentucky Warbler was seen at Lac Qui Parle State Park, Lac Qui Parle County from the end of May until 16 June 1989. We first observed the warbler the morning of 4 June. We walked into a forest bordering a backwater channel of the Lac Qui Parle River. The diagnostic, ringing, two-syllable "tur-ry, tur-ry, tur-ry", could be heard. The warbler was very elusive, moving from tree to tree. We finally saw the warbler in a forest opening, perched on a dead branch

about 20 feet above us. Chuck photographed the bird, and I made the following field notations: olive-green nape and back with yellow chin, throat, and underparts; bold yellow spectacles; chin, and throat divided by a distinct broad black sideburn which extended beneath the eye from ear to bill; black forehead and crown. The bird was indeed a Kentucky Warbler, and with such broad black markings on the face, forehead, and crown, it most likely was a male. We returned to this location again at later dates to see and hear the bird. Each time it could be found perched in the open, singing about 15 to 30 feet above us. Micki saw and heard the bird for the last time on 16 June. She returned to the area on the morning of 19 June, but neither heard nor saw the bird. **Micki and Chuck Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK SEEN — On 1 June 1989, I was photographing Red-necked Grebes on their nests in the colony on North Long Lake, Crow Wing County, Minnesota. The lake is on the east side of Highway 371 between Brainerd and Nisswa, and the grebe colony is along the shore bordering the highway. As I sat on the low dirt bank beside the lake, I noticed an ungainly looking bird with white wing patches flying out over the water. At first, I thought it must be a grebe, but the white was not properly placed. Looking more carefully, I realized it was a duck. Through a binocular (Zeiss 10X40), I could



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, 1 June 1989, North Long Lake, Crow Wing County. Photo by John Tveten.

then plainly see it was a Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*.) The bird landed in the water near shore, and I approached from behind the bank. At close range (70 feet), I could clearly see all distinguishing characteristics: long neck, bright red bill, grayish face with darker brown crown and stripe down back of neck, brown back, richer rusty breast; and black belly. The duck then flew again, circled over the lake, and landed farther down the shore near an eating place at the southwest corner of the lake. Eventually, it walked up on the bank to a sheltered place below overhanging willows. I did not pursue it further. Living in Texas and working extensively as a nature writer and photographer in the Rio Grande Valley, I am fully familiar with the species. The sighting along with the photos, I believe, leave no doubt as to the identity of the duck. I know nothing, however, about its origin. Because I was visiting relatives in Walker, Minnesota, and had only that single day to bird, I did not seek the duck again. I had along none of my birding literature and did not succeed in reaching any of the birders I know. **John L. Tveten, 512 Inwood Dr., Baytown, TX 77521**

Editor's Note: As Mr. Tveten states above, he knows nothing about the origin of this bird. This is always a problem with waterfowl far out of range. There is the distinct possibility that they are escapees from captivity. The Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee will investigate, as much as it can, the origin of this bird.

FIRST HOODED WARBLER IN FILLMORE COUNTY — On 2 June 1989, while wandering along one of our woodland trails, my mind turned to matters other than birding (the professed purpose of my walk). It was a lovely day, partly cloudy and breezy with temperatures in the high 70s. While resting on a bench deep in the woods, I continued with my rambling thoughts and relaxed into the peace of the forest. The only sounds were those of birds, squirrels, chipmunks, an occasional insect and the wind. I had no presentiment of anything unusual, nor did I care. The day was fine as it was. Other than Ovenbirds, American Redstarts, Common Yellowthroats, Blue-winged and Yellow Warblers (all summer residents), I hadn't seen any warblers for about two weeks and so had assumed their spring migration was over, at least for our area in southeast Fillmore County. Even though I had recently been studying birdsongs, I must have been hearing a particular song for at least several minutes before my conscious self realized it was hearing something different. The song was loud and clear and something like "dee da, dee da, dee-dee-o," with the second to the last syllable higher and louder than the others. I walked a few steps in the direction of a densely wooded ravine, looked up about fifteen feet into a branch of a mature white oak and saw a beautiful specimen of a singing adult male Hooded Warbler. Its bright yellow underparts, lack of wingbars and, above all, its distinctive black hood enclosing a yellow face and forehead, made for an easy positive identification. I watched the bird for five minutes or so until it flew off down the ravine. I hurried back to the house to call Anne Marie Plunkett who was almost as excited as I was. She arrived here early the next morning, was fortunate to hear the bird, but was unable to see him. In a telephone conversation with Bruce Fall the same day, I was advised to continue watching for the warbler that, since it was already June and we might have a nesting pair. Since 2 June in spite of almost daily walks to the same area, I have not seen or heard the bird again. **Nancy Overcott, Rt. 1, Box 104, Canton, MN 55922.**

HOUSE FINCHES IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — On 27 May 1989, Sue and Wayne Shelton telephoned us to report a pair of unusual finches that had been coming regularly since about 15 May to their feeder in Dawson, Lac Qui Parle County. They thought the birds were most likely House Finches. At 6:00 p.m., 28 May, Micki went to their house, and a few minutes after arriving, a female finch came to the sunflower feeder. It was indeed a female House Finch. Micki wrote the following field notations: a slender brown finch, not plump like a Purple Finch; face plain brown with no distinct facial markings; broad bold streaks on the throat, belly, and flanks; undertail coverts streaked; brown tail shallowly



Male House Finch, 8 July 1989, Dawson, Lac Qui Parle County. Photo by Chuck Buer.

notched. The next evening, 29 May, we returned to the Sheltons' home. From 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., we watched the pair of House Finches come to the feeder. Micki wrote field notations on the male House Finch: a slender brown finch with reddish-orange forehead, eyebrow, throat, and bib (not the burgundy or raspberry red of the male Purple Finch); cheeks, nape, and back streaked brown with a tinge of reddish-orange; brown streak through the eye sharply divides the reddish-orange between eyebrow and chin/throat; the reddish-orange bib ends sharply across the breast, to give a distinct division from the grayish-white belly and flanks, with broad bold brown streaks; has reddish-orange rump; brown tail shallowly notched. At 8:30 p.m., we were watching the pair at the feeder when a second male appeared. We watched three House Finches with excitement. The second male was more red in color, but otherwise was marked similarly to the other male. This probably explained why we had seen what seemed to be a lone male House Finch coming to the feeder periodically throughout the evening. The finches made twittering "cheep" calls when perched near the feeder, or when flying off. Their song was a varied three-note warble with an ascending end note. The finches were observed from a minimum distance of 1½ feet. We based our identifications, in part, on previous experience — Chuck and I have seen House Finches in southern California, and Sue and Wayne have seen House Finches in Virginia. We confirmed this observation with reference to National Geographic Society *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, and *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*. The finches continued to come regularly to the Sheltons' feeder throughout June and into July. Chuck and Wayne photographed the birds. On 23 June, the pair was feeding when another finch appeared. It looked like a female, but was making begging calls and fluttering its wings in a begging behavior. The male House Finch flew over to this apparently juvenile bird and fed it. The finches were still coming to the feeder on 25 July. It will be interesting to note how long the House Finches will continue to come to the Sheltons' feeder. **Micki and Chuck Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR IN LAKE COUNTY — When Bill Litkey and I were about to leave the Lake Superior access overlook just south of Silver Bay and the taconite plant in Lake County on 27 May 1989, I saw a small bird fly to the edge of a small rain pool in the short grass near the drive. Assuming it was a Horned Lark (and it closely resembled it at first glance), it took me several minutes to deduce its actual identity. The bird had a light brownish base color with dark streaks on its back. The bird had dark legs and a small gray conical bill. The face and throat were a very light yellowish tan, with a distinct black eye line extending from behind the eye to the prominent chestnut patch at the nape of the neck. The forecrown was black until just behind the eye where it changed to a light brown as it extended over the head to the chestnut patch. The upper breast had a black bar below which was blackish feathers with tan colored tips, obviously not yet fully or evenly worn to expose the basic black belly color. The tail had a triangular black patch in its center beginning narrowly at the tail base and widening to the width of the full tail at its distal end. The remaining outer edges were white triangles on the sides, narrowest at the tails end and widest at its base. The tail colors were observed both on the ground and more conspicuously when the bird flew. The bird also gave a few soft warbling notes when it flew. Bill and I believe this bird to be either a late molting or immature male Chestnut-collared Longspur. Al Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.



Chestnut-collared Longspur, 27 May 1989, Silver Bay, Lake County. Photo by Al Bolduc.

POSSIBLE NESTING OF BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER — On Sunday, 14 May 1989, I was paddling my canoe along the southerly shore of Gull Lake in Lake County within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (T.62N., R.9W, Sec. 19). As I passed a point on the shore just east of the western-most island on the lake, I heard a woodpecker pecking and stopped to investigate. I spotted a male Black-backed Woodpecker on a small dead jack pine near shore at a fresh hole two inches in diameter about seven feet above the ground. The male seemed unafraid of me as I drifted in closer. The woodpecker seemed to be excavating the hole, and would lean inside the hole until about two-thirds of its body was inside and hammer several times before coming out. The male flew off after a few minutes, and a female came to the same hole and pecked inside as had the male. The female was more wary of me than the male and flew off. Both the male and female returned to the hole several more times as I waited in my canoe. I photographed both of them at the hole. It appeared that the woodpeckers were excavating a possible nesting cavity. **Kevin Proescholdt, 2833 43rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406.**



Male Black-backed Woodpecker, 14 May 1989, Gull Lake, Lake County. Photo by Kevin Proescholdt.

WESTERN WOOD-PEWEE IN THE SAX-ZIM BOG — While leading a birding tour in the Sax-Zim bog area of St. Louis County, I first heard and then saw a Western Wood-Pewee on the morning of 22 June 1989. The location was along Co. Rd. 52, just east of Co. Rd. 207, or nine miles west of Cotton. I recognized the song immediately since I have seen and heard this species many times farther west, as well as twice previously in Minnesota; also the song was fresh in my mind after having observed several in Manitoba just two weeks earlier. After I called the group's attention to the bird, we watched and listened to it for about 15 minutes as it constantly sang and was actively flycatching in a grove of aspens about 50 feet away. Light conditions were good under a high overcast, we were using mostly 10X binoculars and at times, I was able to use my 20X Kowa TSN-4 scope on it, and no

references were used or needed to make the identification. Following is a description of the bird as taken from notes written just after the observation. In appearance the bird was a wood-pewee because of its flycatcher posture and behavior, its complete lack of eye-ring, the bold whitish wing-bars, its crown feathers often slightly raised to give an impression of a peaked head profile, a long primary extension beyond the tertials with the wing tips reaching nearly halfway down the tail, and the dusky wash across the breast — darker than the average Eastern Wood-Pewee (though there is much overlap in this) but not as dark or as well-defined or as “vested” as on an Olive-sided Flycatcher. Because of the bird’s active movements, it was difficult to see the bill color, although the upper mandible appeared all dark and the lower mandible was at least partly orange (there is also overlap in this between Eastern and Western Wood-Pewees). The diagnostic feature of this bird was its vocalizations, which were given constantly. The primary song was a nasal, burry, one-syllabled “beeer” that slightly dropped in pitch at the end. The only Eastern Wood-Pewee vocalizations vaguely similar to this is its “pee yer” call, but this call completely lacks the harsh, burry quality of the Western’s song, it is clearly two-syllabled rather than one, and the second syllable is more obviously lower in pitch (not slightly lower as in Western). A few times the bird also gave another call characteristic of Western Wood Pewee and unlike any Eastern’s vocalization: a slightly trilled or rolling “pr-r-reet” whistle, rising in pitch, and similar to one of the Say’s Phoebe’s calls. After returning to Duluth, I called Mike Hendrickson who alerted other local birders about this sighting. Mike immediately drove up to the area and was able to hear the bird but did not see it; however, Bill Penning and Robbye Johnson were unable to find it both early that evening and the next morning, and it is assumed the pewee left the area. This represents only the fifth record for this accidental species in Minnesota; previous records were in Lyon County in September 1971 (*The Loon* 44:115-116); in Roseau County in the summers of 1977 and 1978 (*The Loon* 49:169-170); in Clearwater County in August 1985 (*The Loon* 58:50); and in Duluth in August 1984 (*The Loon* 56:263-264). **Kim Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

WHITE-EYED VIREO IN CLAY COUNTY — Date observed: 28 May 1989. Time observed: 3:40 p.m. intermittently over several minutes. Place observed: Moorhead Township, 1.5 miles S. of Moorhead along the Red River. Wind: NE at about 10 mph. Sky: clear. Precipitation: rain in a.m. Distance from species: 20-25 feet. Optical equipment: LF = 10X; CF = 6X. Gender of species: unknown. Seasonal plumage: Adult breeding plumage. Habitat where observed: in backyard about four-five feet high in a lilac shrub and spruce tree. The bird appeared to be searching for insects in the lilac and then moved to a higher perch in the spruce tree. Description: The general configuration was that of a small vireo including the vireo-type bill. It appeared to be nearer the size of a Philadelphia Vireo than of the Yellow-throated or Solitary. (We note that there is some discrepancy in the manuals on size with Robbins et al. indicating 4.5 inches and Farrand (ed.) up to 5.5 inches. This bird appeared to be nearer the smaller end of the scale.) The first noticeable characteristic of the bird was the white eye. This was set within the light yellow eye ring (spectacles) giving the bird the appearance of having a glass eye. The sides of the bird were fairly bright yellow extending backward toward where the wing obscured the rear. The tail appeared to be fairly dark. The throat was light to white. It displayed two prominent wingbars. The bird displayed the spectacled pattern of the Yellow-throated and Solitary Vireos though less distinctly. How different from similar species: This bird might be compared to three other species of vireo, Yellow-throated, Bell’s and Solitary. As compared with Yellow-throated, the one described here did have two prominent rather than slight wingbars; this bird did not have a yellow throat and did have yellow sides. It also had the prominent white iris. It had yellow spectacles, but they did not seem to be as prominent as in the Yellow-throated Vireo. The Bell’s Vireo is similar in size and appearance to this bird, but the wingbars were more prominent in this bird, the sides were more prominently yellow, the spectacles were yellow, and it had the white iris. The Solitary Vireo has spectacles, but these are prominently white; to us, they are the first noticeable characteristic of the Solitary Vireo. The spectacles on this bird, being

light yellow, were less pronounced. Solitary Vireos do have yellow sides, but usually the yellow is not as noticeable or it is observed as white. We note that there are eleven previous records of this species in Minnesota and this bird appears to be near the median date for spring migration (Janssen, R.B., *Birds in Minnesota*, 1987). References consulted: Janssen, op. cit.; Robbins et al., *Birds of North America*, 1983; Farrand, John Jr. (Ed.), *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, 1983; Peterson, R.T., *A Field Guide to Birds*, 1980. **Carol J. and Laurence L. Falk, Rt. #4 Box, #56, Moorhead, MN 56560.**

CALIFORNIA GULLS AT THIELKE LAKE — Saturday evening, 10 June 1989, Kim Risen telephoned us to report California Gulls seen at Thielke Lake, Big Stone County, that afternoon. On Sunday morning, 11 June, Chuck and I drove up to Thielke Lake. Arriving at 9:30 a.m., we saw a large flock of gulls on a sandy island on the west side of the lake. We observed two large gulls among the Ring-billed Gulls on the island. Using a 20-45X spotting scope, we made the following field notations: two large-sized gulls with dark gray mantle in comparison with the Ring-billed Gulls nearby; yellow bill with spot, no black bill-ring like the Ring-billed Gulls; black colored eye; yellowish legs; courtship behavior observed, with much bowing and billing. The birds took flight and one flew directly in front of us, thus offering us an even closer view. During flight, the dark gray wings contrasted with black outer primaries bordering a white patch on the foretip of the primaries. Micki again looked at the bill and noted a red spot on the lower mandible; if there were any black, it was not clearly defined. We watched the birds for one hour, at which time they flew across the lake. We returned at 11:00 a.m., but didn't see these two gulls. We determined that indeed these were California Gulls. We have previous experience with this species; having observed them on numerous occasions in southern California. Micki wrote field notes and we later confirmed our observation by referring to National Geographic Society *Birds of North America*, and *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*. Minimum distance at which the birds were observed was 30-50 feet. Micki returned the afternoon of 12 June but the birds were not seen. **Micki and Chuck Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

BLACK SCOTER AT BIG STONE NWR — On 22 April 1989, Paul Egeland, Peg Kohring, Chuck, and I were leading a car caravan to Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge, Lac Qui Parle County. We stopped on Highway 75 at the dam (reservoir) which is the east boundary of the refuge. In the outflow channel was a large black diving duck. We got out of the car for a better look. We could see that it was a Black Scoter. It had no facial markings; its bill had an orange knob at its base (giving the bill an orange appearance) with a black tip. The bird flew from the channel to the west and landed on the reservoir side of the dam. In flight, no white speculum was seen. We observed the bird from a minimum distance of 50-75 feet with and without binoculars. We observed the bird for about five minutes before it flew out to the reservoir. We located the bird again and observed it with spotting scopes for about 20 minutes. Several birders were able to see the bird. **Micki and Chuck Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

SABINE'S GULL AT THIELKE LAKE — The afternoon of 12 June 1989, Nelvina DeKam and I went to Thielke Lake, Big Stone County, to see if the California Gulls were still there. We noticed a large concentration of Franklin's and Ring-billed Gulls, with a few Herring Gulls. We were departing for home when we decided that there was such a large concentration of Franklin's Gulls that we should return to take a closer look. We returned to the lake and began our study of the gulls. At 2:00 p.m., with a 20-45X spotting scope, I was scanning the north perimeter of the island and noticed a gull flying just above the water's surface (about five-ten feet) in roller coaster fashion, with swoops down to the water surface and up again. What I first noticed was its white forked tail and unusual wing pattern — black outer primaries with white wedges extending from the inner primaries to the secondaries

and tertials, with gray wing coverts, shoulders, and back (mantle). The gull landed amid the Franklin's Gulls and we noticed its size was smaller than that of a Franklin's Gull nearby. Continuing to use the 20-45X spotting scope, I wrote the following field notations: lighter gray mantle than Franklin's Gull; black legs; black bill with light tip; black hood extending only about $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ down the nape (thus showing more white on the nape than the Franklin's Gull). I also noted the distinct wing pattern and tail shape described above. We determined that the bird indeed was a Sabine's Gull. I base this determination in part on previous observations of this species in southern California. We also later confirmed our observation by referring to National Geographic Society *Birds of North America*, and *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*. We observed the gull for 1½ hours, at which time it flew off. We observed the bird from an approximate distance of 75-100 yards. **Micki Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

BREEDING BIRD RECORDS FOR JACKSON COUNTY, 1902-1904 — Taxidermist Roland Bell, 209 Avenue N.E., Cedar, Minnesota donated an old collection of bird eggs to the Department of Natural Resources in 1989. Most of the eggs had been collected by Harry L. Bond and John Crawford in the Heron Lake area, Jackson County, from 1902-1904. Unfortunately, most of the eggs had been separated from the data tags during the past 80 plus years, so the value of the egg collection is limited. However, analysis of the data tags alone presents a very nice summary of breeding bird records for Jackson County from 1902-1904. Included are 77 nest records for 44 species. Of special interest are four nest records for the Common Moorhen in 1903; e.g., "June 15, 1903. Gloss Slough, three miles NW of Lakefield. Nest of 11 eggs, slightly incubated. Nest in canebrakes in two and one-half feet of water, made of flags, attached to cane stalks, not floating. John Crawford and H.L. Bond." (I believe the canebrakes referred to are *Phragmites* sp. and the "flags" are cattails.) Other noteworthy records are a colony of 500 nests of Franklin's Gulls in Heron Lake in 1902 (west of the J. Powell farm), a House Sparrow nest collected in 1903, and a clutch of six Loggerhead Shrike eggs collected near Jackson, Minnesota in 1904. The other records are generally characteristic of the common birds of the wetland, upland and woodlot habitats found in that area. Copies of the records are available from me and they are also in the MOU nest records on file with the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program. **Carrol Henderson, 640-119th Lane, Blaine, MN 55434.**

CLARK'S GREBE IN CLAY COUNTY — Date observed: 22 May 1989. Time observed: ten minutes. Place observed: Lagoon of the Moorhead sugar beet plant in N. Moorhead Township. Wind: SE to 10 mph. Sky: clear. Temperature: 74 degrees F. Distance from species: about 125 feet. Optical equipment: 8 power binocular; was viewed with sun at my back, i.e., having good light for viewing the bird. I first noticed the bird at about 10:20 a.m. Gender of species if known: unknown. Seasonal plumage: Breeding. Habitat where observed: The bird was resting in the eastern lagoon of the Moorhead sugar beet plant. This is a body of water that contains a fair amount of beet residue; ducks sometimes feed in it all winter as it remains open. It is the most isolated of the lagoons. Description: This grebe was resting in the water with its head laid over the back, but with the bill pointed forward. Even in this position the bird could easily be recognized as being either a Western or Clark's Grebe with its dark top of head, long black and white neck and dark body. It was drifting freely on the surface of the water. As it turned in the water, I could see that the head was covered by a narrow black strip as viewed from behind. I had to wait, perhaps eight minutes, for the bird to awaken — some Black Terns flew within a few feet of it, and it raised its head and surveyed its surroundings. The flanks of the bird were quite light. This could not have been caused by wet feathers as the bird had not been diving. The bill was consistently yellow, fairly bright. From the side, the black appeared as only a small cap at the very top of the head. This is why it appeared as a narrow black stripe when viewed from the rear while the bird was sleeping. The black was well above the bill at the head's front and well above the

eye. The head also appeared rather smooth. The white extended downward on the front and side of the neck to the water with the narrow black line at the back of the neck hardly visible from the side. How different from similar species: This bird appeared different from the Western Grebe in several respects. The flanks appeared very light (a very light gray almost white just above the water line). Both the lower and upper mandibles were bright yellow and perhaps slightly longer than the length of the head. The black cap covered only the uppermost top of the head and extended downward along the back of the neck as a fairly narrow line. References consulted: Farrand, John, Jr., (Ed.), *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*. Audubon video series; and viewing of special slide presentation on Clark's Grebe presented to the Fargo-Moorhead Audubon Society. **Laurence L. Falk, Rt. 4, Box 56, Moorhead, MN 56560**

TENT CATERPILLAR PROBLEMS — The defoliated trees and hordes of tent caterpillars are the causes of some unusual phenomena around West Twin Lake, Crow Wing County this summer (1989). We have watched the Tree Swallows this last week doing daily flights and inspections around the three houses they regularly use. They would hang on the front and stick only their head inside — then pull out and a pair would just sit on the tree branch by the house (we have three pair involved in this). After this went on for three days and still no choice was made, we decided we'd better reinspect the houses. One had been cleaned on 20 June after a red squirrel had filled it with long pine needles. In each house was one or two cocoons — as we looked at all the unused houses (about six of them) each one had cocoons inside the house. If other people are wondering why some houses aren't being used, this may be a partial answer. Also, all our poplars and birches were totally stripped of leaves, leaving only patchy other trees in which to hide a nest. We have a Warbling Vireo who returns yearly. This year all the trees are leafless in his usual territory. We continued to hear him sing daily from the same location. We finally discovered the nest 35' up in a sparse pine tree which grows in the center of his preferred trees. He perches on the bare trees around the nest area. Have other birds been forced to use trees that are not their usual choice because of the bareness? The bird world is certainly never dull! **Jean Segerstrom and Mark News-trom, Box 228, Nisswa, MN 56468.**

FIRST HOUSE FINCH RECORD IN DULUTH — Although House Finches are now well-established in southeastern Minnesota, the species is still quite rare in the northern part of the state. There are two records of lone individuals at feeders in the northwestern quarter of Minnesota (Fergus Falls and Thief River Falls), and twice House Finches were at feeders in Aitkin in north central Minnesota, but none had been recorded in the northeastern part of the state until 12 May 1989 when a male appeared at my feeder. It was present from about 6:30 to 8 p.m., long enough for a few other Duluth birders to arrive in time to see it; however, like many other previous House Finches at feeders, this individual was only present for a short time and was never seen again after the 12th. Superficially it resembled an adult male Purple Finch, except for the following features: bold, brown streaks on the flanks, unlike the Purple Finch's blurry and reddish flank streaks; brown center of the crown (Purple Finch's crown reddish); wings and back brown with no trace of reddish mixed in; bill shorter, stubbier and with a more curved culmen than Purple Finch (although none were present for comparison); and the reddish color on the breast, forehead and supercilium a more orange-red shade, unlike the Purple Finch's more raspberry red. No vocalizations were heard, and I did not take note of the shape of the tip of the tail, but recognizable photos were obtained. It will be interesting to see if House Finches spread into Duluth and elsewhere in northern Minnesota as rapidly as they became established farther south. **Kim Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804.**

RED-THROATED LOON IN COOK COUNTY — It was approximately 10:00 A.M. on 28 May 1989, on a mostly sunny, calm morning about two miles east of Paradise Beach (east of Grand Marais, Cook County) when my companion, Bill Litkey noticed a strange bird swimming toward us from far out in Lake Superior. At first glance, this bird appeared cormorant-like with its thin neck and very upturned head profile, but the color was whitish and silvery. The upper head and back of the neck were even lighter than the back. The bird kept swimming toward us, as we waved a white hanky to attract the bird, until it got near a flock of Oldsquaws about 150 to 200 yards away. It then swam parallel to us for a hundred yards or so. We observed the bird for about 45 minutes with binoculars and with 25, 40 and 60 power scopes before the bird got up and flew off to the east. The bird was a winter-plumaged loon judging by its fairly large size, bill, overall shape and silvery white color overall. The head, except when diving or preening, was always pointed in an exaggerated upward angle. After closer examination the upper mandible was perfectly straight from its base to its very tip. However, the lower mandible was sharply angled upwards the last quarter of its length. The throat and belly above the water-line was pure white. The upper half of the head, and back of the neck were a lighter, silvery gray than the back which had numerous small white specks all over it. The areas between the grays and whites, such as the neck and face, were a very gradual shading from the white to the gray. The lower fore-face was darker than expected in a fully winter-plumaged bird in that it was smudged with some grayish. As the bird dove, it would leap slightly out of the water. The bird started swimming away to the east and gave three very high pitched wails, very much different than the loud, low-toned, haunting calls of the Common Loon. Also during this there was a breeding plumaged Common Loon some distance farther to the west, which we were able to refer to for comparisons between the two birds. **Al Bolduc, 4400 Oakland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407.**

FIVE LAUGHING GULLS AT THE DORER POOLS, WABASHA COUNTY — On 27 May 1989, Anne Marie Plunkett and I had been birding along the Mississippi River in Wabasha and Goodhue Counties. In the early afternoon we decided to go inland to look for shorebirds at the Dorer Pools, in the Whitewater WMA, Wabasha and Winona Counties. At about 2:00 p.m., we walked out on the dike road on the east edge of one of the drawn-down pools. After observing the numerous shorebirds and herons, I looked skyward (the skies were clear) and saw five gulls high overhead flying east to west. They began to circle all over the pool about a ¼ mile west of us. At that time, we noted that all the birds had dark heads, a rather dark mantle and black wing tips. I, at first, thought the birds were Franklin's Gulls, an unusual bird for this area. However, we could not see any white of consequence in the primaries and the mantle seemed too dark for a Franklin's. We could not be totally sure of these two characteristics because of the bright sun and distance we were from the birds. For the next two hours, we watched the birds from a distance of ¼ mile or more to as close as 100 feet. During this period, the birds continued to circle the area and were constantly in the air, never landing on the water or leaving the area. This was an incredible amount of time to watch the five birds. The following is a description of the birds from notes taken during and immediately after the observation: three of the birds were in full adult plumage, the other two birds were also in adult plumage with the exception of a few white flecks present on the black hood; size was approximately that of a Ring-billed Gull. The only direct comparison we had was with Common Nighthawks. The gulls were much larger, about twice the size of the nighthawks. From experience with other gull species, I would say the five gulls were a little larger than Franklin's Gulls, about the same size as Ring-billed Gulls, and not as large as Herring Gulls. The "jizz" of these birds was dramatically different from Franklin's or Ring-billed Gulls; the wings were longer and narrower, giving the birds a much different appearance from a Franklin's or Ring-billed Gull. Head dark, looked black in bright sunlight, the black extended down the nape and neck with a sharp cutoff at mid-neck. Broken white eye-ring. Bill appeared black in bright light, but on one bird that came very close to us, it appeared dark red; Breast, belly and undertail coverts were pure white. The back and upper side of the wings were a dark gray, darker than

Ring-billed, Franklin's or Herring Gulls, but not as dark as Black-backed Gulls; trailing edge of the wing was white with the white extending very slightly to the very tip of the inner primaries. (Anne Marie's drawing shows that the white was hardly visible, only seen when the birds were very close.) Primaries were black with black extending about half way up on inner primaries and on the outer primaries black extended further onto the wing. The underwing was light with the primaries the same as the top of the wing as explained above. The legs were black and contrasted sharply with the white undertail coverts. We eliminated the Franklin's Gull in any plumage because these five birds were all in adult plumage with the head configuration of a Laughing Gull and because the gray of the upper wing darkened to black toward the end of the wing with no white separation. Finally, the lack of any extensive white in the tips of the primaries confirmed that these five birds were Laughing Gulls. This was a most interesting observation, not only because it was of five individual birds of a Casual species in the state, but the length of time we were able to view these birds in the air was extremely unusual. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Road, #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

ADULT CALIFORNIA GULL AT BLACK DOG LAKE, DAKOTA COUNTY — While observing shorebirds at the extensive mud flats on Black Dog Lake east of the NSP power plant on 20 August 1989, Sue Adams and I discovered an adult California Gull standing in shallow water near the north shore with a group of about 50 Ring-billed Gulls of all ages. Using 40X spotting scopes, we studied this bird for about 45 minutes (0900-0945) at distances from 200m to as close as 150m. The weather was ideal — about 60°, partly cloudy and calm, with side lighting on the gull. My attention was first drawn to it because it had a distinctly deeper gray saddle color than the nearby adult Ring-billeds and was substantially larger than they were (by an estimated 10cm). Although there were no Herring Gulls among the 250 gulls on the lake for comparison, this bird did not seem as large as a Herring Gull, but my impression was that it was closer in size and proportions to a small female Herring Gull than to the Ring-billeds. It was an adult, apparently molting into basic plumage as the nape and back of the otherwise white head had some dusky streaking. On the folded wing, the visible primaries were black, broadly tipped with white. On two occasions when the bird stretched, we noted that the dorsal wing pattern was similar to that of an adult Herring or Ring-billed Gull, and that the tail was all white. The eye was dark; in comparison, the white irises of the adult Ring-billeds next to it were plainly visible at that distance. The legs were greenish yellow, similar in color to those of the adult Ring-billeds but somewhat duskier or grayer. The bill was yellow with a large red subterminal spot on the gonys of the lower mandible; the anterior end of this mark was black, and the black (but not the red) extended somewhat onto the upper mandible as a small inconspicuous spot. The gull departed as we were writing field notes and we did not see it leave nor did we ever see it in flight. We searched for it both east and west of the power plant for another hour that morning and again the same evening but were unable to relocate it. This is the fourth record from the Twin Cities area of this Casual species. **Bruce A. Fall, 4300 29th Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55406.**

PRAIRIE FALCON SEEN IN OLMSTED COUNTY — I was birding along Olmsted County Road 3, about 1½ miles south of Olmsted County Road 34, on 26 October 1988, when I spotted a raptor sitting on a fencepost about 50 yards west of the road. I first looked through a 7x35 Nikon binocular and then through a 20 power spotting scope. At first I thought I was looking at an immature Peregrine Falcon. The bird had a light mottled brown back, lighter than what I had normally seen on the immature Peregrine Falcons that I had observed flying around the Mayo Clinic. I also noted a white eyeline and the markings on the head as being different from a Peregrine Falcon. The bird was facing away from me, but would turn its head from time to time to allow me a chance to get a better look at its head. The face of the bird had a dark vertical line below the eye, a light cheek, and then another

vertical dark sideburn. I checked my National Geographic Society *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*, and suspected I was looking at a Prairie Falcon. It sat on the post for about five minutes allowing me quite a bit of time to observe it. After about five more minutes, the bird took flight from the post. When it flew, it tipped slightly sideways and I briefly saw dark markings under the wings. The bird flew directly away from me, flying about three feet off the ground, for about 100 yards. I noted its flight pattern was direct and it did not tip from side to side like a Short-eared Owl might. It landed on another post for a few seconds, and then continued flying west, flying at least a ¼ mile before it crossed over a fenceline and disappeared from sight. All the while it flew, it never got more than three or four feet above the ground. While it was flying, I noted the long pointed wings and was sure that I was watching a falcon flying away from me. Based on the head pattern, the brief glimpse of the dark axillars, and the flight pattern of flying close to the ground, I was quite sure that I had seen a Prairie Falcon. The area that I saw the Prairie Falcon is an open country area, with a small stream running through the pasture. There is about a square mile of pastures, alfalfa fields, and untilled fields in this area. Bob Ekblad tried finding the bird later in the day, but was only able to find a couple of Red-tailed Hawks flying over this area. **Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920.**

PACIFIC LOON AT DULUTH — On 2 June 1989, Dave and Sharon Lambeth discovered a Pacific Loon on Lake Superior near the mouth of the Lester River, St. Louis County. The bird, in winter plumage, was seen by many observers over the next few days. On 14 June, I “rediscovered” the loon feeding at the river mouth. The following excerpts are from field notes written immediately after the observation: Moderately large waterbird, general loon features, dull colors. Head rounded (no knob on forehead like Common Loon) with large straight bill. Head dull black on top and sides, blending to white on chin and throat. A distinct dark “chin strap” present on throat just below chin; most obvious when bird was observed head-on. Bill straight, sharply pointed, dark blue/gray at base with darker black tip. In comparison with Common Loon, bill was smaller, more sharply pointed, and straighter along the top and bottom edge. Entire head and neck slightly smaller and definitely more slender than Common Loon. Back side of neck dark and front side white. Upper back side of neck as well as crown were somewhat lighter than rest of back and neck — appearing dull brown or even golden/brown (the effect not unlike that of a Golden Eagle). Back completely unmarked uniform dull black, from neck to tail. Very little of underside observed, but what was seen appeared unmarked white. Overall this bird was slightly smaller and more slender than a Common Loon. The loon was observed for several minutes at distances of 40 to 100 yards, using a 10x35 binocular. Overcast skies and light winds provided excellent viewing conditions. Two Common Loons in breeding plumage were present (as close as three yards from the Pacific Loon), allowing direct comparisons. The Pacific Loon is considered Casual in Minnesota with the majority of records occurring in the fall and on Lake Superior (Janssen, R.B. 1987. *Birds in Minnesota*). This sighting represents the fourth summer record for the state (ironically, the previous three were at lakes far removed from Lake Superior). The loon was not seen again after 14 June. **Terry Wiens, 117 W. Anoka St., Duluth, MN 55803.**

Birding Is The Answer — To Motivation

Anne Marie Plunkett

Something unprecedented happened recently in a spruce bog in Koochiching County, and I am happy that I was present when it happened: Ray Glassel recorded his 200th species in his 87th county in Minnesota. (It was a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.) He is the first and only person to do that. The question is — what made him do it, and what next for a lister nonpareil? The answer from Ray to the first part of the question was simple and straightforward. Ray said, “I like to look at birds.” I can believe it, after birding with Ray for a few years. Not jaded, not always wanting to see a “new” bird, Ray rejoices with the return of the robins each spring, as though it were a new and exciting experience. He told me he cannot remember when the natural world did not fascinate him — not just birds, but grasses, ferns, rocks, butterflies, beetles, moths, all piqued his curiosity and made him want to learn more about them. Going birding with Ray is always great fun (and an education) because he looks at everything around him. It gets harder to get “new” county birds when one gets into the 190’s, and some would be discouraged with coming home empty-handed on many a day. Not Ray. Of course he is happy when he adds one to his list; but his day is not ruined if he doesn’t. There is always something he discovers to brighten the day. Perhaps that is what has kept him going, to achieve his goal of seeing at least 200 species in all the counties of Minnesota.

So what next? Well, first of all, Ray is now going for 210 in all 87 counties. And he is also trying to see as many species as possible in each of the counties. (He has already seen 109 species in all 87). There are also early and late dates to try to better. And then there are the grasses Ray wants to learn more about.

Reams of material have been written about motivation. What I’ve learned from Ray is that there are all kinds of goals one can set — of greater or lesser importance. The important thing is to set them and pursue them. Secondly, there is so much in our world to learn about that one should never stop learning. Another thing — that the best teacher can be one’s self. Ray is almost totally self-educated; a university degree is nice but if it is not possible, it does not mean one cannot learn about even the most complicated aspects of the universe we inhabit. Someone once said that the best birders are self-taught. Ray certainly is case in point. And a good example to all of us, if we are looking for the answer to being motivated, to being better birders.



Xanthochroistic Evening Grosbeak, 1 February 1989, near Ely, St. Louis County. Photo by Alta Lynn.

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds; we aim to create and increase public interest in birds; and to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims: through the publishing of a magazine, *The Loon*; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest," and color and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of sheet with generous margins. Notes of Interest should be generally less than two typewritten pages double-spaced. If reprints are desired, the author should so

specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

Club information and announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Kim Ecer. See inside front cover.

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MEMBERSHIPS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS: Jerry Bonkoski, Rt. 1, Box 24, Byron, MN 55920. To join the MOU and receive both MOU publications, donate \$15.00 for a regular yearly membership. Other classes of membership that you may choose are: Youth (through age 17) \$10.00 yearly; Family \$25.00 yearly; Supporting \$50.00 yearly; Life \$300. Canadian and Foreign Subscriptions, \$20.00 yearly. All memberships are on a calendar year basis. Also available: back issues of *The Loon* (\$3.00 each ppd.) and MOU checklists of Minnesota birds (minimum lots of 20 for \$5.00 postage paid).

Gifts, bequests, and contributions to the MOU Endowment Fund should be sent to the Treasurer.

EDITOR OF THE LOON: Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd., #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (phone 612-546-4220). The Editor invites articles, short notes, and illustrations about Minnesota birds. See back cover for details. **ASSOCIATE EDITORS:** Kim R. Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, MN 55804; Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 S.W. 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902; Dr. Harrison Tordoff, Bell Museum of Natural History, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455. Photo Editor: Warren Nelson, 603 2nd St., N.W., Altkin, MN 56431.

"The Season" section of *The Loon* publishes reports of bird sightings throughout Minnesota. We particularly invite reports from parts of the state that have been neglected or covered lightly in past reports. To become a contributor to "The Season," request the report forms from the **EDITOR OF "THE SEASON,"** Kim Eckert, 8255 Congdon Blvd., Duluth, Minnesota 55804 (phone 218-525-6930).

EDITOR OF THE MOU NEWSLETTER: Elizabeth Bell, 5868 Pioneer Rd. S., St. Paul Park, MN 55071. Publishes announcements and reports about activities of the MOU and its affiliated clubs. (Club officers should keep both MOU editors informed.)

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The Aims and Purposes of the *The Loon*

As the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union enters its sixth decade, it is an appropriate time to restate the purpose of our organization's journal, *The Loon*.

From the first mimeographed issue of "The Flicker" in 1929 to the most recent issue of its offspring, *The Loon*, the goal of the journal has been to promote knowledge and appreciation of the birds of Minnesota. Facts about distribution, migration, behavior, and ecology of Minnesota birds have always occupied most of the journal, but personal ornithological experiences and news of MOU activities have added a more human touch.

The Loon is by and for its members. The editors strive for a journal with a high degree of accuracy, but with an informality encouraging contributions from any active birder.

The Loon continues to welcome articles on Minnesota birdlife so that this record of our state's birds remains alive and lively for the next 60 years.

From The Editor

The Thirty-seventh Supplement to the *Check-list of North American Birds* (*The Auk* 106 (3):532-536:1989) contains several changes that affect the scientific and English names of birds on the Minnesota State List. We will adopt these changes on the official State List and begin using them in this issue of *The Loon*. The changes are as follows:

The scientific name of Yellow-crowned Night-Heron changes from *Nycticorax violaceus* to *Nyctanassa violaceus*.

The English name of *Tyto alba* changes from Common Barn-Owl to Barn Owl.

The English name of *Surnia ulula* changes from Northern Hawk-Owl to Northern Hawk Owl.

The English name of Water Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta*) changes to American Pipit, and its scientific name becomes *Anthus rubescens*.

I would urge all readers of *The Loon* to read the Book Review by Kevin Winker on page 191-193 of this issue. *Where have all the Birds Gone* is a major book for all of us to read at this time of environmental crisis in the world.

Front Cover

Peregrine Falcon, from watercolor by George M. Sutton.

Reproduced here for the first time with the kind permission of William J. Beecher, Beecher Research Company, Chicago, Illinois; Carl G. Thelander, BioSystems Analysis, Santa Cruz, California; and Tom J. Cade, The Peregrine Fund, Inc., Boise, Idaho.

Peregrine Falcon Restoration: Expectation vs. Reality

Tom J. Cade, Patrick T. Redig, and Harrison B. Tordoff

At the outset, restoration of American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) populations eliminated by pesticides appeared fairly straightforward. A reasonable expectation was that once the birds that had vanished were replaced with a new population of released falcons, the new birds would occupy the original habitat within the original geographic range, or at least as much of it as remained suitable. Many daunting problems needed to be solved, such as learning how to breed the falcons in captivity on an adequate scale for releases and designing release techniques that would result in functional adult falcons living independently in the wild. That these problems were solved is to the great credit of a small army of falconers, raptor biologists, private citizens and foundations, government agencies, and conservation organizations, which became united in their common interest to see the peregrine returned to its vacant haunts in North America.

Restoration is not yet finished, with releases continuing in the southern Appalachians, Midwest, West, and eastern Canada, but more than 100 pairs of peregrines are now established in eastern and midwestern sections of North America (including Canada), and it is already obvious that these new populations of peregrines are not ecological duplicates of the original ones.

How are they different? Cliffs along the great lowland river systems, the Hudson, Susquehanna, Delaware, Allegheny, Wisconsin, and Mississippi rivers, were a main stronghold of the eastern and midwestern peregrines. None of these river cliffs has resident peregrines today. Instead, the newly established peregrines are nesting on coastal towers, on buildings and bridges in cities, and on cliffs in the mountains of northern New York and New England and in northern Minnesota. All known nesting attempts by peregrines on the lowland river cliffs (at least eight on the Mississippi) have failed because of predation by Great Horned Owls (*Bubo virginianus*), usually on the young but on

adult falcons at two eyries, at least. The big questions are: How did the original population of falcons coexist with the owls? Why have the released falcons failed, so far, to breed successfully in owl-rich country? What is the future for the new falcon population?

It has been suggested by many people that perhaps Great Horned Owls are more numerous now than they were prior to 1950. This may be true, but good population figures for owls then and now are lacking. Persecution of raptors in general has declined in the past 40 years, and Great Horned Owls now have legal protection lacking earlier. But peregrines and owls have probably coexisted along these river systems for thousands of years. No doubt owl predation on falcons has a long history, but presumably not at the level which has prevented any successful reproduction in recent years.

It should be noted, however, that the recent intensive studies on peregrines have revealed that Great Horned Owls are also significant predators on both nesting adult and young falcons in the western states, while in Europe the closely related Eagle Owl (*Bubo bubo*) is an equally serious predator. According to the Terrasse brothers, the presence of Eagle Owls prevented peregrines from occupying certain districts in France, for when the owls declined in those districts, peregrines were able to move in (Hickey, *Peregrine Falcon Populations: Their Biology and Decline*. 1969. Univ. of Wisconsin Press).

Another suggestion is that the original river populations of peregrines were not self-sustaining, but were supported by immigration from populations less subject to owl predation. There is no evidence for this hypothesis, and there is substantial contrary eyewitness evidence of successful falcon nesting on river cliffs in years prior to 1950.

It is difficult to avoid concluding that the behavior of the peregrines, the owls, or both is different today than earlier. Coexistence of peregrines and owls probably was based on some degree of mutual avoidance. Peregrines attack raptors around their eyries. It seems

likely that the peregrines living along the lowland eastern rivers were experts at dealing with owls through long practice and natural selection. If their attacks on owls were sufficiently vigorous (there are records of both peregrines and Prairie Falcons, *Falco mexicanus*, killing Great Horned Owls in defense of their eyries), perhaps the local owls learned to avoid the vicinity of falcon eyries most of the time. Great Horned Owls, of course, can hunt at night, but are most active at dusk and dawn, when peregrines are able to defend their cliffs. Peregrines themselves are often active at low light levels, able to hunt at dawn and often to be active at night in cities.

If owls did tend to avoid peregrine cliffs as a result of severe harassment by the original peregrines, it seems likely that the absence

of peregrines for 30 years might have led the owls to lose respect for peregrines. Owls now living around the cliffs have had no experience with effective deterrence by peregrines and therefore readily invade falcon territories.

What if the released peregrines now trying to nest on river cliffs are less effective in deterring owls than the original falcons? Their failure to nest successfully is one indication. There are other reasons to suspect that they may not be a match for the owls. Ancestors of some of the peregrines used for reintroduction come from geographic areas where Great Horned Owls are lacking or scarce, making it likely for these falcons that little selection for effective owl deterrence has taken place. Also, many of the released peregrines are smaller than the old "Duck Hawks" which were among the largest peregrines in North



Radar, four-year-old male peregrine nesting on North Central Life building, St. Paul. After fledging four young with his mate, Meg, in late June, Radar was killed by a plane on the St. Paul airport on 7 July 1989. A new adult male, still unidentified, moved into the territory the same day. Photo by Dana Struthers on 5 June 1989.

America. Ideally, descendants of these original eastern peregrines, skilled at owl deterrence, would have been used for reintroduction. Unfortunately, these falcons were extinct before captive breeding began.

In addition to heritable adaptive behavior produced by natural selection to minimize predation by owls, appropriate behavior is also learned by young peregrines watching defensive activities of their parents. For example, in captive breeding situations, young falcons raised by parents who are not fearful in response to humans tend to be tame when full grown, while young raised by fearful parents grow up themselves to be fearful towards humans (Sherrod, *Behavior of Fledgling Peregrines*, p. 153. 1983. The Peregrine Fund). Young peregrines reared in the wild by parents who are fanatically aggressive towards owls should have the best chance of learning how later to protect their own eyries from owls.

What are the prospects of the new peregrines eventually reoccupying the river cliffs and coexisting with owls? In evolutionary time, this seems probable, barring some new ecological disaster. The lowland rivers offer a rich prey base and good nesting sites used by the original falcon population. There is no obvious reason why peregrines should not adapt once more to coexistence with the owls, given time. If, however, the density of owls is now so high that they will continue to overpower the ability of the small peregrine population to establish successful pairs, the falcons may not be able to recapture the river cliffs in the foreseeable future.

Taking the optimistic view, how quickly might we expect to see falcons reoccupying the river cliffs? Peregrines reared in the wild, even from hacked parents and particularly from wild parents, should be more effective as adults in many subtle ways than peregrines reared in captivity and released to the wild. The higher level of recruitment into the breeding population of wild young falcons as compared with hacked young is evidence of this (well documented in *Peregrine Falcon Popu-*

lations. Their Management and Recovery. 1988. The Peregrine Fund). Perhaps efficiency in deterring predation by owls will be better in wild-produced young, even from city nests. In time, some exceptionally adept (and perhaps lucky) adults will succeed in fledging young from river cliffs. These young, in turn, should be on average better in defending their eyries against owls. If the process depends more on learning appropriate intensity of response to owls than on genetic selection, adaptation can be expected to be rapid, perhaps only a few generations once a few broods are fledged from cliffs to get things started.

For the immediate future, a workable strategy would seem to be to establish as many pairs of peregrines as possible in cities along the lowland rivers. There the falcons will be safer from owl predation and could be expected to produce enough young to maintain the city populations and also to provide a continuing source of better recruits for the cliffs than can be done by hacking captive-produced birds. Time should be on our side: as new generations of young peregrines are produced in cities and on cliffs where owls are scarce, these wild falcons can be expected to cope better with owls and to reoccupy gradually the traditional food-rich territories along the lowland eastern and midwestern rivers.

Meanwhile, many people are learning to enjoy the peregrines now nesting so successfully in our major cities. In the New York metropolis where nine or ten pairs are located on various buildings and bridges, there is a well-organized network of urban watchers who keep each other apprised of the daily activities of the falcons. Similar groups have formed in Chicago, St. Paul/Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and other cities.

The Peregrine Fund, Inc., 5666 West Flying Hawk Lane, Boise, Idaho 83709 (Cade); The Raptor Center (Redig) and Bell Museum of Natural History (Tordoff), University of Minnesota, St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The Fine Art of Documentation

Ann Johnson

(Reprinted from *Iowa Bird Life*, Summer 1989)

Just to set the record straight, I really am a firm believer in the reporting and documenting of bird sightings in our state; but I have always relied on others to do the job. More persons reporting, however, in combination with comprehensive geographical coverage, enhances the true avian picture across the state. Observations by birders help provide a general view of the environment which has value beyond the competition we may use to amuse ourselves. After thirty years of developing some semblance of skill in identification, the guilt began developing about never taking the time nor putting forth the effort to report the various bits of data collected over the years and document unusual occurrences. As a well-traveled birder, a recent article in one of the journals really hit home when it was reported that many states have been unable to add unusual birds to their state records because visiting birders have failed to document them.

Documentation is the scare tactic used to convince normally coherent birders that they have absolutely no idea what they are doing. The integration of science and humanities is incredible. The art form itself is a combination of scientific observation, analysis of thought, creative but descriptive written communication, and logical argument for making a case. Tie this in with sufficient research, and the task looks overwhelming.

Two circumstances last fall totally disrupted my normally relaxing pastime. First, my son's adolescence and corresponding lessening of time demands provided many more hours afield, significantly increasing the odds of stumbling onto some good birds. Second, the drought of 1988, along with the existence of small pockets of water in our creek bed, created an absolutely incredible fall warbler migration. My curiosity was piqued as to daily notations in a notebook and the conclusion that, if you compile all this data, you might just as well report it. The drawback became evident upon the encountering of species I never expected to see.

Many of us can think of instances where

well-intentioned friends and neighbors have reported some incredible sight to us and we politely acted mildly interested and then went on about our business. Now ponder the responsibility of the Records Committee as they ascertain if such sightings are reliable. Their job is to legitimize any unusual avian occurrence in the state of Iowa and not unlike a court of law, clear and convincing evidence must satisfy them beyond a reasonable doubt. It is better to reject any number of legitimate sightings than to allow bogus or questionable reports to become part of the archives. Often the committee has nary a clue as to the skills of the observer; in fact, their objectivity is probably served best without any knowledge of the observer's identity. The judgement of a record boils down, then, to the reporter's ability to describe what was seen and to argue successfully for an identification consistent with the observation.

Two warblers became my nemesis last fall and gave me my first attempts at documentation. The identification was relatively easy with a little careful observation and, after all these years, I do have confidence in my abilities to sort out most of them. Their stopover in my yard, however, forced me into doing something I had never done before — putting pen to paper to describe what I had seen. Both records were insufficiently detailed to be accepted, and, if I am ever in legal trouble, I want the Records Committee as my jury! With a 99.9 percent surety factor (I seldom allow for no margin of error) this obviously means I did a poor job of not only describing the birds but making strong arguments for their accurate identification through the elimination of similar species.

In an effort to better understand the process, improve my skills, and receive more feedback, I decided to risk any credibility I may have had and, abandoning my normally more conservative approach, submitted a couple of documentations for the winter season with about a seventy-five percent surety factor — not particularly good odds for identification, let alone substantiation. Wintering

gulls, which are extremely difficult for me to describe, provided perfect subjects for documentation attempts. Barb Wilson, who says "Just Call Them All Seagulls" (*Iowa Bird Life* 56:3), may soon have a convert. My apologies and gratitude go to the Records Committee for intruding their valuable time in reviewing records, but in my mind's eye, they have certainly lived up to the task of verifying "extraordinary bird sightings" in our state.

I will never be one hundred percent in agreement with some of the assessments of my records, but that is all right. My Prairie Warbler will always be mine; I can still see it in the front yard today; and I will continue to submit reports, acceptable or not. My experiences over the past year have taught me alot about coping with the trials of documentation and to those who are willing to try, I offer my keys for having a successful experience.

AJ'S TEN KEYS FOR DOCUMENTATION

1. Forget the ego trip and never take anything too personally. Document for yourself. Only you know what you saw and if nothing else, your written description may bring back pleasant memories. If the committee, whose purpose it is to be skeptical, accepts your record, it becomes a bonus. It helps to remember that the reviewers are individuals who over the years have been perfecting their skills and their adeptness at this process qualifies them to serve on the Records Committee. Be a risk taker — even with all your insecurities, you may be right; and even if your description is not an acceptable record, you may not necessarily be wrong.
2. Make as many notes as possible before opening the field guide, no matter how great the temptation. Problems develop in two directions once a picture is seen. In maintaining the integrity of the report, it becomes easy to under-describe by becoming unclear in your mind what was real. By the same token, that picture may trigger some illusions that were merely that. Most importantly, be honest, even if it means a high rejection rate. You will seldom see enough to satisfy everyone, and most identifications are made on a few field marks which may or may not be sufficient for "beyond a reasonable doubt."
3. Re-live and describe your unconscious thought processes. The longer you have been birding, the more concerted effort this step takes, but it is an integral piece of the description. Without it, the obvious may not appear in writing. Explain the steps you took in making your identification. No one else knows why you drew those conclusions.
4. Use graphic adjectives such as bold, subdued, vivid, bright, muted, pale yellow wash with muted streaking. Comparisons to common birds may prove helpful.
5. Know your anatomy when describing a bird, especially when subtle differences are the key to identification. Terms such as crown, mantle, primaries, secondaries, undertail coverts, mirrors, windows, superciliary, patagial, sub-terminal, axillaries, and the like are invaluable as descriptors. Describing the position of the bird when you saw it may help determine why you did or did not observe some key markings.
6. Describe what is not there, particularly if it can provide a key field mark. Errors of omission may make a perfectly acceptable identification an unacceptable record.
7. Practice judging distances and observation times. Both have a great impact on a report's validity and elapsed time is hard to guess when you are busy keying field marks. Make the distance clear in the body of your report; there is quite a difference between 200 feet and two football fields!
8. Do your homework. Although some people have more reference books than others, the major field guides give good ideas of what birds might be confused with your sightings. Remember, only you know why you did not identify some other way.
9. Assign a self-imposed percentage to your identification. If you are ninety-nine percent sure, you should be able to describe convincingly. Seventy-five percent should leave considerable doubt, which in all likelihood will be reflected in comments from the committee.

10. Do not get discouraged. Enjoy the challenge, learn from it, and keep on reporting.

Lest anyone think otherwise, I hereby confess that in the past six months I have broken all of these rules — some more than once! It is all part of the learning process. Document-

tation is an art, one which may develop more quickly in some than others of us, but one which inevitably sharpens one's powers of observation, cognitive reasoning, and communication techniques. 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, Iowa 50211

Kirtland's Warbler: Results of 1989 Survey Work in Minnesota

Bonita Eliason

The Kirtland's Warbler is a federally endangered species that is known to breed in only a few counties in northern lower Michigan. Preferred breeding habitat is dense jack pine stands of wildlife origin in which trees are 1.7 to 5.0m tall (Probst 1986). Dispersal of young birds is adaptive in species occupying such ephemeral habitat. The fate of dispersing birds is of interest; their failure to acquire mates might account for the failure of the population to grow on the traditional nesting area in Michigan despite high fledging success in recent years (Probst 1985).

Occasional singing males observed outside the traditional breeding area may represent dispersing individuals. The Kirtland's Warbler recovery plan (Byelich et al. 1985) recommends a search of adjacent states and Canada to locate, quantify, and band these "wanderers" in an attempt to determine their importance to the population biology of the species. Survey work in Wisconsin in 1988 yielded sightings of eight singing males in three counties, including Washburn and Douglas Counties in the western part of the state (Anon. 1988). The proximity of these sightings to Minnesota prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to cooperate with the Nongame Program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in conducting a similar survey here. This report summarizes the 1989 field survey work in Minnesota, during which 75 sites comprising approximately 7000 acres in five counties were surveyed, and no Kirtland's Warblers were located.

METHODS

Criteria for identifying suitable habitat

The first step in the process of identifying suitable habitat in Minnesota was defining critical habitat variables. An analysis of habitat variables from 21 stands occupied by the species in Michigan (Probst 1988) revealed the following range of characteristics:

- 1) Tree height: 1.7 to 5.0m; trees of this height are usually five to 25 years old.
- 2) Tree density: initially 15-20% cover (more than 2000 stems/ha) up to 60% cover at peak occupancy; the latter translates to about 5000 stems/ha in fire regenerated stands and 3000 stems/ha in seeded areas.
- 3) Stand size: density in suitable habitat on the breeding grounds is 1 male/20ha (50 acres). Stands less than 80 acres in size are rarely used by breeding birds (Byelich et al. 1985). This stand size limitation may not apply to extralimital wanderers, especially in landscape regions that contain many pines (Probst, pers. comm.).
- 4) Lower height of live foliage on the jack pine: less than 1m off the ground.
- 5) Ground cover: low, light cover of shrubs and/or grass-sedge interspersed with moss, lichen and bare ground.
- 6) Soil: Grayling sands underlie the habitat in Michigan; these are deep, noncalcareous sands that are derived from former lake beds or sandy glacial outwash.
- 7) Fire history: In 1984, 73% of males censused in Michigan were in habitat regenerated from wildfire or prescribed burning.

The characteristics listed above define what might be considered "prime" habitat for the species. Birds actually occur in stands that exhibit a more diverse array of size and density characteristics; for example, older, sparser stands that are adjacent to young, dense stands may be used. Densely stocked plantations with no recent fire history may be used. Norway pine may also be used. It seems reasonable to assume that dispersing birds, most or all of which are assumed to be unmated, may be particularly likely to be found in sub-optimal habitat.

Areas to be surveyed

Procedures for identifying potential habitat for Kirtland's Warblers in Minnesota are explained in detail elsewhere (Eliason 1989); they are summarized only briefly here.

Forest inventory data from the Division of Forestry, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, proved to be the primary source of information on the availability of potential habitat. Phase II forest inventory is an intensive timber inventory conducted by the MNDNR Division of Forestry on state-owned and county-owned forest land in Minnesota (excluding Itasca and St. Louis Counties). The inventory involved vegetative cover-type mapping based on air photo interpretation, followed by ground reconnaissance to determine size and density of stands (Grand Rapids Forest inventory staff 1983). Data were put into a computerized database, with the intent that the data would be updated when stands are cut or destroyed by fire.

The variables available from Phase II inventory that were deemed to be most important in identifying habitat suitable for Kirtland's Warblers were tree species (jack pine), size (age) of trees (5-25 y.o.), tree density (minimum 2500 trees/ha), stand size (greater than 50 acres).

A search of the Phase II forest inventory database was done for all jack pine stands that met the criteria listed above. The following stands were identified in five areas of the state (Fig. 1):

- 1) Pine County: three stands
- 2) Southern Hubbard, Cass, Wadena and Becker Counties: 12 stands
- 3) Northern Hubbard, Beltrami, and Clearwater Counties: eight stands
- 4) Lake of the Woods and Roseau Counties: 12 stands

- 5) Northern St. Louis, Lake and Koochiching Counties: 34 stands. Isolated stands were also located in Cook (2), southern St. Louis (1), and Aitkin (1) Counties.

Funding constraints made it impossible to survey all these areas. Several factors, including soils (deep, noncalcareous sand), proximity to Wisconsin, fire history, extent of potential habitat, and amount of pine in the general landscape resulted in the selection of the first two areas listed above for survey.

Potlach Corporation is a major forest industry landowner of jack pine in these two regions of the state. Their forest inventory staff provided information on the location, age and size of jack pine stands on their lands, but they could provide information about stand density for only a few stands.

Using these sources of information, I selected 91 stands for survey. Of these, 68 were owned by the state or a county, 22 were owned by Potlach, and one was owned by a private individual.

Field personnel

Two individuals were hired to conduct the field work. Skip Mott, who has an MS in Ecology from the University of Minnesota, did the survey work in Pine County. Skip has spent many years in Michigan and is very familiar with the breeding habitat of Kirtland's Warblers. Gary Swanson, an experienced birder with field experience throughout the state, worked in Cass, Hubbard, Wadena and Becker Counties.

Survey protocol

Field work was scheduled to be conducted from 22 May to 16 June, from sunrise to 11:00 a.m. No surveys were to be done during heavy rain, or winds greater than 20 mph.

A seven minute listening and playback period was done in the middle of each 40 acre block of potential habitat as follows: two minute listening period, 30 seconds of playback, two minutes of listening, 30 seconds of playback and two minutes of listening.

Two minute loop tapes of Kirtland's Warbler vocalizations were supplied by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Playback was done using Panasonic cassette recorders attached to Lectronics speaker/amplifiers.

Playback stops were mapped on cover-type maps of the survey sites. Date, time, and a

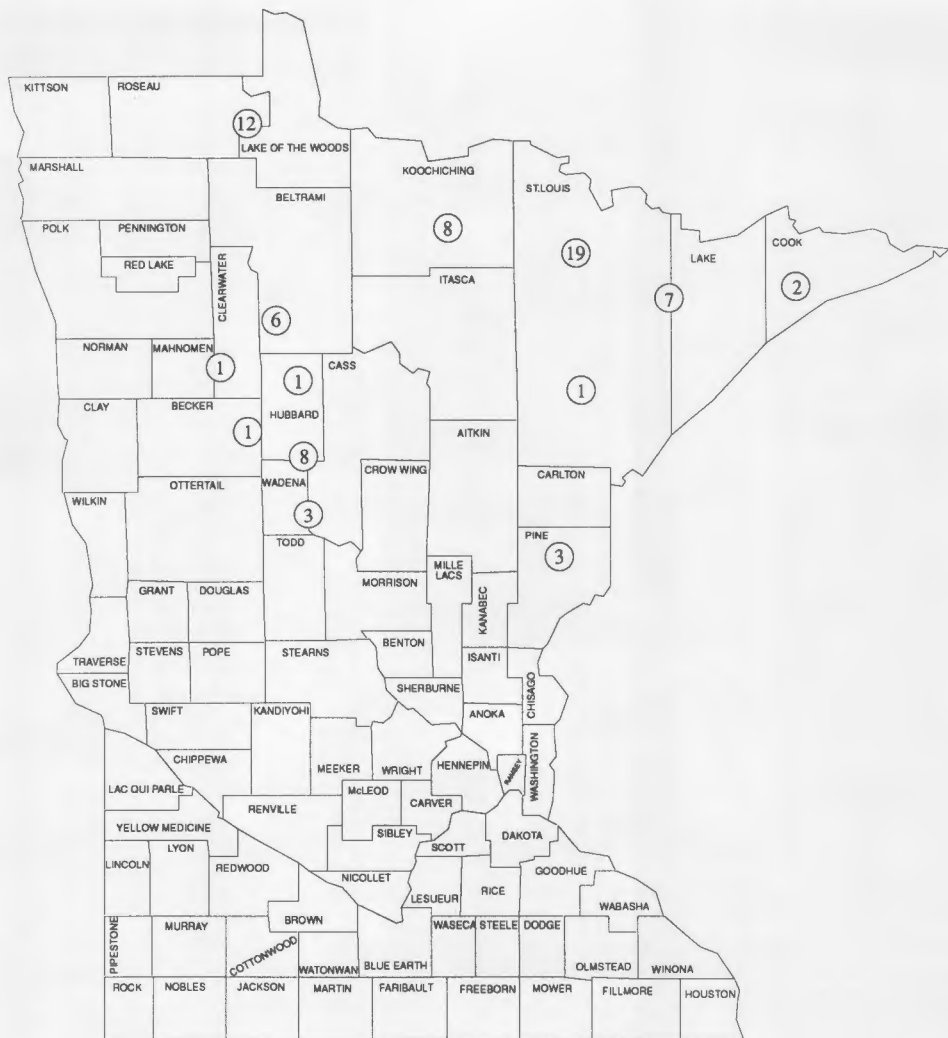


Figure 1. Numbers and general locations of publicly-owned jack pine stands in Minnesota that are 50 acres or greater in size, 5-25 years old and have densities greater than or equal to 2500 trees/ha.

description of important habitat characteristics at each stop were recorded on a data sheet.

After the seven minute survey period, an additional five minute listening period was done at each stop, during which all bird species seen or heard were recorded on checklists.

Field personnel were provided with log sheets showing the location and characteris-

tics of each site. Sites were assigned to one of four priority categories for survey, based on how closely their stand characteristics (determined from forest inventory information) matched prime Kirtland's Warbler breeding habitat. Survey personnel were also instructed to be alert for other potentially suitable habitat as they travelled around the survey counties.

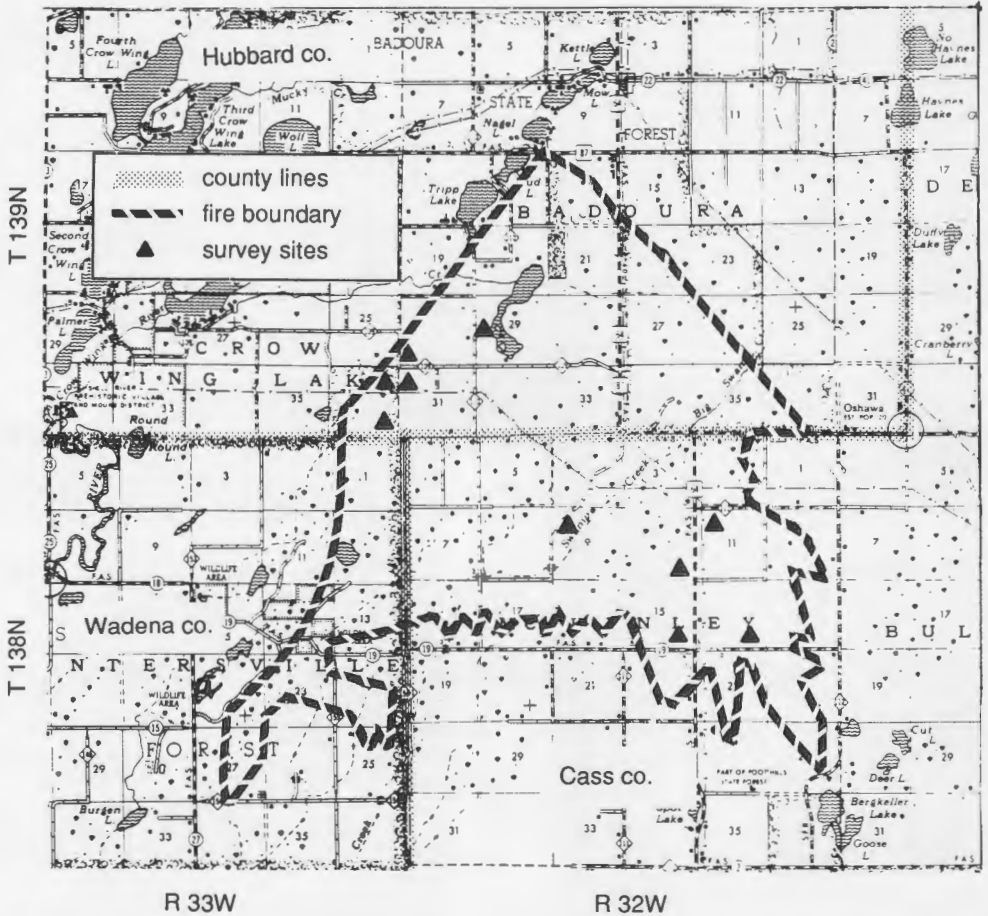


Figure 2. 1989 survey sites considered to contain potential Kirtland's Warbler breeding habitat that occur within the boundaries of the 1976 Huntersville fire in Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena Counties.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Seventy-five sites were surveyed using 188 playback stops in the two areas of the state (Table 1). These included two sites located by Gary Swanson in the course of his travels through Hubbard and Cass Counties that were not originally targeted for survey. The total area surveyed was approximately 7,000 acres. Eighteen of the sites initially targeted were not surveyed, either because when visited they appeared to be totally unsuitable (e.g. recently cut or impenetrably dense), or because permission to cross privately owned land for access could not be obtained. No Kirtland's Warblers were observed on any of

the sites visited.

Characteristics that are considered important in breeding habitat selection by the species that could not be determined in advance from forest inventory information included distribution of trees, ground cover, and existence of live branches near the ground. During field survey, sites were judged to be unsuitable for Kirtland's Warblers if they exhibited any combination of the following characteristics: trees were uniformly distributed with no openings, trees were so dense that lower branches were all dead, or the stand had a dense understory of deciduous shrubs.

Based on criteria listed above, no sites in Pine County contained suitable breeding habitat for Kirtland's Warblers. Fourteen sites in Cass, Hubbard, and Wadena Counties were judged to contain potential breeding habitat. Ten of these were in the area burned by the 1976 Huntersville fire (Fig 2).

The 1989 survey work established that there is apparently suitable habitat for Kirtland's Warblers in west-central Minnesota, particularly in the area of the 1976 Huntersville fire, but that there is little or no suitable habitat in Pine County. In both regions, planted stands of suitable age and density usually did not have the necessary tree spacing to provide scattered forest openings and trees with live branches near the ground that characterize suitable breeding habitat. Although fire-regenerated stands were more likely to exhibit suitable habitat, some of these were also unsuitable because they were impenetrably dense, with few or no openings.

In Pine County, there have been no recent fires, and forest lands are not being managed for jack-pine regeneration. Given that 10 of 14 suitable sites were located on forest industry lands, future changes in land management practices by the industry in response to economic pressures may strongly influence the amount of suitable habitat for Kirtland's Warblers in the state. As it seems unlikely that Minnesota forest will be managed with Kirtland's Warblers in mind, the creation of suitable habitat for the species in both of the areas surveyed will probably continue to depend on wildfires.

Any future survey work for this species in west-central Minnesota should focus only on

fire-regenerated areas. In particular, the Huntersville burn area appears to provide some of the best potential habitat in the state. An intensive survey in this area aimed at covering as much of this habitat as possible would be a logical plan. In other areas of the state not surveyed in 1989, a focus on fire-regenerated stands might also be most productive.

The survey protocol should have resulted in the detection of Kirtland's Warblers had they been present. One way of increasing confidence in negative evidence would be to concentrate on a smaller number of sites and survey each site more than once, with repeat visits occurring in mid-June.

The eight singing males found in Wisconsin in 1988 gave rise to speculation about the existence of a breeding population there. This idea was not supported by survey work in 1989, when only one singing male was observed. This male was one of the eight observed and later banded in 1988, suggesting that at least some Kirtland's Warbler males thought to be "wanderers" are territorial and return to the areas of their former territories in subsequent years. However, their low numbers make it unlikely that wandering females would find them and allow successful breeding.

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Table 1. Numbers of sites, acres surveyed, playback stops, and sites judged to contain potential habitat by county.

County	Sites surveyed	Approx. acres	Playback stops	Sites with potential habitat
Becker	1	70	3	0
Cass	16	2300	62	5
Hubbard	21	2200	40	6
Wadena	16	800	33	3
Pine	21	1600	50	0
Total	75	6970	188	14

the playback tapes of Kirtland's Warblers. T. Klein prepared Fig. 1.

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- Nongame Wildlife Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Box 7, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155**

KEY TO SEASONAL REPORTS

(Spring, Fall, Winter)

1. Bold-faced species name (**PACIFIC LOON**) indicates a species occurring as a Casual or Accidental in the state.
2. Bold-faced dates (**10/9**) indicates a date of occurrence either earlier or later or within the earliest or latest dates listed in *Bird in Minnesota* (Janssen, R.B., 1987).
3. Bold-faced counties (**Aitkin**) indicates a county of first or unusual occurrence for that species. City of **Duluth** also bold face when applicable.

(Summer)

1. Same as all three above.
2. Counties in italics (*Aitkin*) indicate a first county breeding record.



The Spring Season (1 March to 31 May 1989)

Don Bolduc, Steve Carlson,
Oscar Johnson and Dick Ruhme

Foreword by Robert B. Janssen

Winter retained its icy grip on the state well into March. On the 1st, it was a -3° Farenheit in Minneapolis and on the 3rd, a huge winter storm hit the southern part of the state; 9.5" of snow fell in the Twin Cities. By the 10th, temperatures moderated into the 40's and the first spring migrants began to trickle into the state. However, another big storm hit the state on the 14th with 7.5" falling in the Twin Cities. To add insult to injury, the temperature fell to a -30° Farenheit in Isabella, Lake County on the 17th; it was a -1° Farenheit in the Twin Cities. These cold temperatures did not deter the Horned Larks from flooding into the state on the 19th and 20th. By the 23rd and 24th, spring started to show itself at least in southern Minnesota. Ducks moved into the Minnesota River and Black Dog Lake areas as temperatures moderated into the upper 40's. By the 27th, the

temperature went up to 71° ; so in a span of 10 days, we saw a range of temperature from the depths of winter to balmy summer. The mild temperature continued during the last week of the month. On the 29th, 59 species were recorded in the south-central part of the state, so spring had finally arrived.

April started cool and cloudy with some much-needed rain falling in many parts of the state by the 3rd. By this time, the Minnesota River Valley was full of ducks and the first Tundra Swans were returning to the state. Winter returned on the 8th with snow showers: the 9th, 10th and 11th were cold with more snow showers. The ice was still in most lakes but the rivers and small ponds were open. The "roller-coaster" weather continued: on the 13th and 14th the temperatures were in the 60's, but on the 18th there was an inch of snow on the ground. This melted quickly

with temperatures rising into the 70's on the 19th and 20th and 21st. There was good birding over the state on the 23rd when 91 species were recorded in southern Minnesota. It was summer-like on the 25th with a high of 73° Fahrenheit in the Twin Cities. Some much-needed rain fell from the 26th to the 28th.

May had an ominous start and a preview of what was to come. There was frost on the ground with the temperature at 30° on the 1st and 2nd. The 3rd and 4th were more spring-like, but on the 5th we had snow, the first time in May since 1976. The 6th was worse with a record low of 25°, strong north winds and wind chills near zero. In spite of this cold, 118 species were recorded on the 6th in Steele, Dodge and Freeborn Counties. Warblers, sparrows, flycatchers and thrushes were all over the ground. Luckily the cold snap was short-lived, as temperatures rose into the 50's by the afternoon of the 6th and the north winds (thankfully) abated. For the rest of the month it was like summer as daytime highs rose into the 70's and into the 80's by the 16th and 17th. There was a huge migration of thrushes and warblers in Duluth on 19 May. The 22nd and 23rd saw temperatures in the 80's. A little rain fell during the last two weeks of the month, but almost all areas of the state reported moisture shortages as the 1988 drought extended into 1989.

Highlights of the spring birding season are summarized below.

A Clark's Grebe was carefully identified on 22 May at Moorhead; many birders got to see the Tricolored Heron at the Old Cedar Ave. Bridge in Bloomington from 4 to 20 May. Mute Swans were seen in Duluth and Houston (wild?) County during April. Snowy Egrets were in Ramsey, Houston and Mower Counties, but no Cattle Egrets were reported and only one Little Blue Heron was seen all spring.

There was an extraordinary goose migration during the spring, an excellent summary of this migration is contained in *The Loon* 61:60-61. The duck migration was less than spectacular as the drought, no doubt, continued to take its toll on this group. A Barrow's Goldeneye was still at Grand Portage, Cook County on 27 May.

There were more than usual reports of falcons; Peregrines, Merlins and Prairie Falcons were seen in many areas.

The first Black-necked Stilt for the state

was found in Roseau County from 23 to 25 April. There were eight pairs of Piping Plovers at Pine and Curry Islands, Lake of the Woods County on 19 May.

The five Laughing Gulls at the Whitewater WMA in Wabasha/Winona Counties on 27 May was unprecedented for the area. A Lesser Black-backed Gull was at Winona on 6 May and a Black-legged Kittiwake was at Bemidji on 20 April.

Good numbers of Great Gray Owls remained in northern areas of the state after the winter invasion of 1988-89 (*The Loon* 61:115-117). During March, the die-off of Boreal Owls continued when five were found dead in Roseau and Beltrami Counties. This die-off will be documented in a future article in *The Loon*.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers continue to expand their range northward in the state; one was seen on the Wadena/Hubbard County line in May. Black-billed Magpies were found nesting in Aitkin County in May. The Carolina Wren that spent the winter in Anoka County was seen until 24 April. There was an early House Wren in Olmsted County on 9 April. A Common Raven was recorded in Hennepin County on 3 March. One wonders what happens to all the ravens that pass southward over Hawk Ridge in Duluth during the fall. Only a few are ever seen south of Duluth, (in Carlton and Pine Counties). Fewer still must continue on down the Mississippi River Valley as they are reported occasionally in LaCrosse by Wisconsin observers; however, they still go unrecorded on the Minnesota side of the river.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher continues its northward expansion in the state with records from four northern counties. Vireo and warbler migration was lackluster for the season except for Duluth on 19 May. White-eyed Vireos were seen in two counties. Up to 12 Black-throated Blue Warblers were seen in Duluth between 18 and 20 May. The warbler find of the year was the Prairie Warbler at Elm Creek Park Reserve on 13 May. The bird was around for only a few minutes.

There were Kentucky Warblers in Houston and Lac Qui Parle Counties, the latter record was of a singing male at Lac Qui Parle State Park. It appeared he was valiently trying to attract a mate; there was no evidence that he did so. Unusual was the Yellow-breasted Chat in Wilkin County on 27 May.

Black-headed Grosbeaks made history, occurring in Winona County and Lac Qui Parle County in early May. A Western Tanager was in Rochester from 7 to 14 May. A Lazuli Bunting put in a brief appearance at a feeder near Detroit Lakes, Becker County. It was encouraging to have a report of a Henslow's Sparrow in Wilkin County on 23 May.

Most exciting was the discovery of a Chestnut-collared Longspur in Lake County along the North Shore of Lake Superior on 27 May.

House Finches are becoming much more numerous, especially in the southern part of the state. The first documented House Finch nesting record came from Winona in late May and they were nesting in Faribault, Rice County at the same time.

All things considered, it wasn't too bad a season, even though there weren't too many rarities; but note the number of early dates, especially in the flycatcher and shorebird groups. The weather from hot to cold and back again was hard on everyone. The drought is the real problem. Many permanent marshes are totally dry, making them available for plowing and crops. Many of the larger lakes, such as Tiger Lake in Carver County, are little more than wet mud. Two years ago the lake was home to nesting Eared Grebes. Hopefully the rains will come and those species hit by the drought will be able to recover.

RED-THROATED LOON

All reports 5/4 Cook fide OSL, 5/28 Cook AB, BL (*The Loon* 61:152) and 5/29 Duluth MH.

Common Loon

Early south 3/31 Ramsey RH, 4/1 Blue Earth JCF, and Rice OR; early north 4/2 Itasca TS, 4/14 Aitkin WN, and Todd PH.

Pied-billed Grebe

Early south 3/24 Anoka ES, Hennepin AB, SC, 3/26 Dakota, Lac Qui Parle, Lyon, Olmsted m.ob.; early north 3/26 Otter Tail SDM, 4/4 Aitkin WN, 4/13 Beltrami DJ.

Horned Grebe

Early south 3/26 Cottonwood ED, 3/29

Goodhue AP, 4/13 Freeborn RJ; early north 4/15 Duluth KRS, 4/16 Kanabec AB, GS, 4/24 Beltrami DJ.

Red-necked Grebe

Early south 4/9 Goodhue JD, 4/15 Hennepin OJ, Winona RG; early north 4/15 Duluth JAG, 4/16 Kanabec AB, 4/17 Aitkin WN.

Eared Grebe

Early south 4/19 Wabasha AP, 4/21 Swift CMB, 5/6 Freeborn AB, Hennepin DC; early north 4/23 Clay LCF, only report north.

Western Grebe

Early south 4/11 Blue Earth MF, 4/18 Murray ND, 4/21 Freeborn, Lac Qui Parle, Swift m.ob.; early north 4/29 St. Louis JB, 5/13 Pennington AP, 5/31 Clay LCF and Todd BR.

CLARK'S GREBE

Only report: 5/22 Moorhead, Clay Co. LCF (*The Loon* 61:150-151).

American White Pelican

Early south 4/1 Carver RG, Nicollet JCF, Nobles KE; early north 4/12 Marshall SKS, 4/16 Koochiching GM, 4/20 Duluth KE; also reported from Houston and Wabasha.

Double-crested Cormorant

Early south 3/25 Nicollet RJ, 3/27 Hennepin KB, 3/28 Pipestone JP; early north 4/2 Grant SDM, 4/15 Cook WP, 4/16 Duluth ME.

American Bittern

Early south 5/1 Hennepin SC, 5/5 Houston AP, 5/7 Goodhue AB; early north 5/3 Becker BK, Marshall SKS, 5/9 Beltrami DJ, KB.

Least Bittern

Early south 5/19 Hennepin AB, 5/27 Wabasha AP, 5/31 Cottonwood ED; only north report: 5/28 St. Louis fide KE.

Great Blue Heron

Early south 3/16 Stearns JMa, 3/17 Fillmore fide AP, 3/20 Houston EMF; Early north 3/24 Otter Tail SDM, 3/25 Duluth KE, 3/26 Becker, Beltrami, Clay, Marshall m.ob.

Great Egret

Early south 3/22 Cottonwood ED, 3/26 Anoka GP, 3/30 Houston AP; early north 3/26 Otter Tail SDM, 4/16 Clay LCF, 4/20 St. Louis AE.



Least Bittern, 23 May 1989, Old Cedar Avenue Bridge, Bloomington, Hennepin County. Photo by Tony Hertzell.

Snowy Egret

Only reports: 4/22 Ramsey DC, 5/9 Houston AP (*The Loon* 61:91) and Mower RRK.

Little Blue Heron

Only report: 5/14 Lac Qui Parle FE.

TRICOLORED HERON

Reported 5/4-20 Bloomington, Hennepin Co. TH, m.ob. (*The Loon* 61:82).

Green-backed Heron

Early south 3/29 Fillmore GMD, 4/13 Wabasha DWM, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle AB, OJ, Steele KV; early north 5/4 Marshall TR, 5/14 Clay LCF, 5/18 Duluth MH.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Early south 3/26 Washington TEB, 3/27 Hennepin SC, ES, 4/13 Ramsey RH; early north 4/19 Duluth DAB, 5/20 Marshall SKS.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

Only report: 5/11-13 Pipeston ND, JP.

Tundra Swan

Early south 3/11 Rice MTS, 3/22 Washington DS; early north 3/26 Clay LCF, 3/28 Todd PH; late south 4/23 Wabasha JD, 5/13 Houston AB.

MUTE SWAN

Only reports: 4/17 Duluth m.ob., 4/30 Houston FL.

Greater White-fronted Goose

Early south 3/22 Olmsted BSE, 3/24 Blue Earth JCF and Martin AP; early north 4/2 Clay LCF, 4/15 Aitkin fide WN; late south 5/14 Pipestone AB, 5/27 Cottonwood ED; late north 4/29 Duluth KE, 5/11 Aitkin SC.

Snow Goose

Early south 3/9 Hennepin ES, 3/10 Dakota SC; early north 3/29 Clay DJ, 4/2 Traverse SDM; late south, 5/6 Steele AP, 5/14 Lyon AB; late north 5/20 Marshall SKS, 5/27 Cook AB.

ROSS' GOOSE

Reported 3/30 Fillmore GMD, et al. (*The Loon* 61:88-89), 4/2 Cottonwood KE, et al. (*The Loon* 61:89-90), 4/17 Dakota/Goodhue AP (*The Loon* 61:88), 5/25 Thief Lake WMA, AP, Marshall Co. m.ob., 4/30 Steele/Dodge AP (*The Loon* 61: 60-61).

Canada Goose

Reported from 36 counties south, 14 counties north.

Wood Duck

Early south 3/8 Hennepin OJ, 3/12 Olmsted AB, 3/16 Mower JM, and Houston AP; early north 3/26 Otter Tail SDM, 3/29 Todd PH, 4/2 Clay LCF.

Green-winged Teal

Early south 3/19 Goodhue AB, 3/24 Hennepin, Nicollet, Olmsted and Wabasha m.ob.; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/13 Duluth MH, 4/14 Aitkin WN.

American Black Duck

Late south 4/5 Olmsted BSE, 4/7 Anoka JH, 5/9 Hennepin SC.

Mallard

Reported from 36 counties south, 17 counties north.

Northern Pintail

Early south 3/1 Olmsted JB, 3/6 Nicollet JCF, 3/19 Scott AB; early north 3/26 Clay LCF, 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/6 Aitkin WN.

Blue-winged Teal

Early south 3/23 Olmsted PP, 3/24 Mower JM, Washington WL; early north 3/26 Clay LCF, 3/27 Todd PH, 4/1 Otter Tail SDM.

Northern Shoveler

Early south 3/23 Olmsted m.ob., 3/24 Blue Earth, Martin, Nicollet and Wabasha m.ob.; early north 4/2 Otter Tail SDM, 4/14 Aitkin WN, 4/16 Duluth MH and Kanabec AB.

Gadwall

Early south 3/9 Hennepin AP, 3/11 Blue Earth JCF, 3/12 Goodhue JD; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/19 Duluth DAB, Marshall SKS.

American Wigeon

Early south 3/1 Mower JM, 3/11 Blue Earth JCF, 3/22 Olmsted JB, BSE; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/14 Aitkin WN, 4/16 Kanabec AB.

Canvasback

Early south 3/9 Olmsted m.ob., 3/10 Goodhue AP, 3/11 Wabasha BL; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/16 Clay LCF, Duluth MH.

Redhead

Early south 3/8 Rice OR, Wabasha DWM, 3/10 Goodhue AP, Olmsted BSE; early north 4/16 Clay LCF, Duluth MH, Kanabec AB.

Ring-necked Duck

Early south 3/2 Washington TEB, 3/10 Olmsted BSE, Goodhue AP; early north 3/26 Otter Tail SDM, 4/4 Beltrami DJ, 3/6 Aitkin WN.

Greater Scaup

Early south 3/19 Scott AB, 3/24 Jackson AP, 3/25 Wabasha SC, Washington TEB; early north 4/16 Kanabec AB, 4/17 Duluth MH, 4/21 Beltrami DJ.

Lesser Scaup

Early south 3/8 Wabasha DWM, 3/9 Nicollet JCF, Olmsted m.ob.; early north 3/23 Otter Tail SDM, 3/26 Clay LCF, 4/7 Norman BK.

Harlequin Duck

Only reports: 4/16-20 Duluth KE and 5/25 (few May records) Duluth m.ob.

Oldsquaw

Only reports: 5/13, 5/16, 5/27 Cook m.ob.

Black Scoter

Only reports: 4/22-23 Lac Qui Parle m.ob. (*The Loon* 61:149), 5/20,21 Hennepin m.ob.

Surf Scoter

Only reports: 5/6 Freeborn RJ, AP, 5/17-20 Duluth m.ob.

White-winged Scoter

Only reports: 5/8 Lac Qui Parle, Swift RG, 5/19 Duluth KR, 5/26-28 Cook AB, SC.

Common Goldeneye

Late south 5/9 Goodhue AP, 5/14 Cottonwood AB, 5/20 Hennepin DZ.

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE

5/27 Grand Portage, Cook Co. AB, BL (*The Loon* 61:140).

Bufflehead

Early south 3/10 Cottonwood ED, 3/19 Goodhue AB; early north 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/6 Duluth KE; late south 5/16 Goodhue AP, 5/20 Hennepin DZ.

Hooded Merganser

Early south 3/10 Goodhue AP, 3/12 Wabasha AP, 3/18 Olmsted PP; early north 3/26 Clay LCF, 4/1 Otter Tail SDM, 4/5 Aitkin WN.

Common Merganser

Late south 4/18 Cottonwood ED, 5/11 Olmsted BSE, 5/14 Washington TEB.

Red-breasted Merganser

Early south 3/11 Washington BL, 3/23 Olmsted JB, PP, Rice OR; early north 4/14 Todd PH, 4/16 Clay LCF, Kanabec AB.

Ruddy Duck

Early south 3/25 Olmsted JB, 3/26 Dakota ES, 3/27 Anoka SC, Rice OR; early north 4/22 Marshall SKS, 4/23 Clay LCF, 4/30 Morrison AB.

Turkey Vulture

Early south 3/22 Anoka JH, Fillmore NAO, 3/24 Rice OR, FKS; early north 4/2 Wilkin SDM, 4/6 Becker BK, Marshall SKS.

Osprey

Early south 4/7 Nicollet JCF, 4/11 Olmsted JB, Winona AP; early north 4/1 St. Louis AE, 4/13 Aitkin WN, 4/17 Cook KMH; also 4/30 Cass AB and 5/10 Wilkin KB.

Bald Eagle

Reported from 15 counties north, 21 counties south; peak 3/9 Wabasha (36) OJ.

Northern Harrier

Early south 3/9 Nicollet JCF, 3/10 Goodhue AP, 3/12 Mower RRK, Olmsted AB; early north 3/4 Wadena KH, 3/23 Todd PH, 3/26 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM.

Sharp-shinned Hawk

Early south 3/1 Houston EMF, 3/2 Sherburne DO, Olmsted AB; early north 3/2 Otter Tail SDM, 4/5 Beltrami DJ, Marshall SKS. (The early March dates may be wintering birds or extremely early migrants).

Cooper's Hawk

Early south 3/1 Olmsted BSE, 3/3 Dakota JD, 3/24 Ramsey KB; early north 4/20 Kittson TR, 4/23 Marshall SKS, 4/27 Becker BK.

Red-shouldered Hawk

Early south 3/9 (wintering bird?) Winona OJ, 3/24 Ramsey KE, 3/25 Dakota, Renville, Washington; early north 4/2 Aitkin WN.

Broad-winged Hawk

Early south 3/29 Sherburne DO, 4/6 Olmsted BSE, 4/15 Hennepin ES; early north 4/2 Clay LCF, 4/19 Cook KMH, 4/20 Kanabec RJ; peak 4/25 Dodge AP 2000 + (*The Loon* 61:89).

Swainson's Hawk

Early south 3/26 Todd PH (*The Loon* 61:119-121), 4/5 Dakota JD, 4/13 Swift SC, 4/16 Fillmore AP, BSE, Mower RRK; early north 5/21 Otter Tail SDM, 5/22 Douglas SKS.

Red-tailed Hawk

Reported from 33 counties south, 13 counties north.

Ferruginous Hawk

Only report: 5/10 Dodge BSE (*The Loon* 61:92).

Rough-legged Hawk

Late south 4/26 Ramsey KE, 4/27 Pipestone JP, 5/20 Rice OR; late north 4/20 Duluth KE, 5/4 Cook OSL, 5/7 Aitkin WN.

Golden Eagle

Late south 3/26 Washington JD, 4/12 Houston AB, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle AB, DB; no reports north.

American Kestrel

Early north 3/4 Aitkin WN, Wilkin SDM, 3/11 Clay LCF.

Merlin

Early south 3/18 Renville RJ, 3/24 Hennepin AB, 3/29 Freeborn RJ, AP; early north 3/25 Cook WP, 3/27 Duluth MH, Marshall SKS.

Peregrine Falcon

Early south 3/27 Dakota JD, Goodhue/Dakota AP; 4/8 Lac Qui Parle RG, 4/16 Washington JD; early north 4/19 Duluth KC, 4/26 Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Aitkin WN.

Prairie Falcon

Only reports: 3/18 Clay SDM, 5/5 Olmsted JB. (*The Loon* 61:153-154).

Gray Partridge

Reported from 35 counties south, six counties north.

Ring-necked Pheasant

Reported from seven north and 40 south counties.

Spruce Grouse

Only report: 3/5 Lake DJ.

Ruffed Grouse

Reported from 20 north and 14 south counties.

Greater Prairie-Chicken

Reported from Clay and Wilkin Counties.

Sharp-tailed Grouse

Reported from Aitkin, Kittson, Marshall and St. Louis Counties.

Wild Turkey

Reported from Fillmore, Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha and Winona Counties.

Virginia Rail

Early south 5/2 Winona AP, 5/5 Houston AP, 5/6 Dodge RJ, AP, Freeborn AP, Mower JM and Steele AP; early north 5/10 Wilkin KB, 5/13 Clay LCF, 5/20 Duluth TW.

Sora

Early south 4/8 Murray AB, 4/26 Dakota AP, 4/30 Hennepin ES; early north 5/7 Aitkin WN, 5/10 Wilkin KB, 5/13 Clay LCF and Polk, Clearwater RJ, AP.

Common Moorhen

All reports: 4/29 and 5/27 Kellogg, Wabasha Co. m.ob., 5/27 Houston KE, 5/29 Weaver, Wabasha Co. (2) m.ob. and Winona (2) fide AP.

American Coot

Early south 3/21 Anoka SC, ES, 3/22 Olmsted JB, 3/23 Wabasha DWM; early north 4/10 Becker DJ, 4/16 Clay LCF, Duluth MH, Itasca TS and Kanabec AB.

Sandhill Crane

Early south 3/26 Anoka KB, 3/29 Cottonwood ED, 4/3 Hennepin OJ; early north 3/24 Kittson TR, 3/28 Marshall SKS, 3/30 Otter Tail SDM, 4/30 Steele (2) RG, AP; also 5/29 Wabasha KE et al.

Black-bellied Plover

All reports: 5/18 Goodhue JD, 5/18-27 Duluth m.ob., 5/19 Cook WP, 5/23 Nicollet MF, 5/24 Olmsted AP, 5/28 Clay LCF.

Lesser Golden-Plover

Early south 4/10 Cottonwood ED, 4/21 Lac Qui Parle TEB; late south 5/21 Kandiyohi AB and Lac Qui Parle SC, GP, 5/23 Cottonwood GS; only north reports 5/20-27 Duluth m.ob., 5/23 Wilkin KB.

Semipalmated Plover

Early south 5/3 Blue Earth JCF, 5/6 Carver AB, Le Sueur LF, MF and Lyon TG; early north 5/10 Wilkin KB, 5/18 Duluth KE; late south 5/27 Wabasha RJ, 5/30 Olmsted (10) AP, 5/31 Brown JS, Goodhue JD and Olmsted BSE; late north 5/29 Aitkin WN, 5/31 Clay LCF.

Piping Plover

All reports: 5/10 Nobles (1) RG, 5/18-19 Duluth (2, first record in three years) KE et

al., 5/19 Pine and Curry Islands, Lake of the Woods Co. (8 pairs) KH.

Killdeer

Early south 3/7 Fillmore GMD, 3/18 Houston EMF and Mower JM, 3/19 Olmsted, Houston and Mower AP; early north 3/23 Todd PH, 3/26 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF and Duluth AE, MS, 3/27 Beltrami KH.

BLACK-NECKED STILT

4/23-25 Roseau WMA, Roseau Co. TP, SW (*The Loon* 61:197; first state record).

American Avocet

All reports: 4/17-5/25 Olmsted m.ob., 4/23 Big Stone TEB, 5/17-23 Nicollet RG, MF, 5/19-31 Duluth m.ob., 5/21 Lac Qui Parle SC, GP.

Greater Yellowlegs

Early south 3/29 Dodge RJ, AP, 3/30 Washington DS and Winona AP; early north 4/20 Duluth KE, 4/22 Todd PH; late south 5/27 Nicollet JCF and Wright ES, 5/31 Olmsted BSE; late north 5/10 Kittson TR, 5/18 Cook KMH.

Lesser Yellowlegs

Early south 3/29 Freeborn RJ, AP, 4/1 Blue Earth JCF, Houston FL, Lyon TG and Nobles KE; early north 4/14 Aitkin WN, 4/25 Beltrami DJ and Marshall SKS; late south 5/21 Wright ES, 5/31 Brown JS and Olmsted BSE; late north 5/15 Kittson TR, 5/27 Duluth SC.

Solitary Sandpiper

Early south 4/8 Jackson AB, 4/15 Lyon TG; early north 5/4 Pennington SKS, 5/7 Aitkin WN; late south 5/16 Hennepin SC, 5/17 Washington WL; late north 5/19 Cook WP, 5/20 Duluth KE, TW.

Willet

Early south 4/2 Nobles KE, 4/29 Murray ND, JP and Wabasha BL; early north 4/30 Crow Wing AB, WN, 5/6 Aitkin WN and Pennington SKS; late south 5/16 Goodhue AP, 5/18 Hennepin DB; late north 5/27 Duluth SC.

Spotted Sandpiper

Early south 4/22 Lac Qui Parle AB, OJ, 4/26 Goodhue AP, Houston EMF, Washington BL and Winona AP; early north 4/23 Wilkin RJ, 5/4 Duluth KE, CO, 5/6 Aitkin WN.

Upland Sandpiper

Early south 5/5 Rock ND, 5/13 Dodge JB, BSE and Steele KV, 5/14 Murray AB; early north 4/23 Kittson TR, 5/7 Norman BK, 5/10 Clay LCF.

Whimbrel

Only report: 5/20-29 Duluth (max. 12) m.ob.

Hudsonian Godwit

Early south 4/20 Cottonwood ED and Olmsted BSE, AP, 5/6 Le Sueur LF, MF; early north 5/11 Wilkin KB, 5/19 Lake of the Woods KH; late south 5/29 Olmsted BSE, 5/31 Brown JS; late north 5/20 Todd PH, 5/21 Aitkin JBl.

Marbled Godwit

Early south 4/20 Meeker RH, 4/22 Big Stone EL, Chippewa OJ and Lac Qui Parle AB, CMB; early north 4/15 Kittson TR and Otter Tail SDM, 4/19 Marshall SKS; late south 5/23 Nicollet MF, 5/31 Stearns BR.

Ruddy Turnstone

All reports: 5/14 Carver RG, 5/16-23 Hennepin ES, DC, 5/20-27 Duluth m.ob., 5/22 Crow Wing and Itasca RG, 5/25 Wabasha AP, RJ, 5/27 Blue Earth MF, Goodhue/Wabasha AP and Olmsted m.ob.

Red Knot

Only report: 5/15 Goodhue (1) JD.

Sanderling

Early south 5/14 Lyon AB, 5/18 Olmsted BSE; early north 5/11 Lake of the Woods KH, 5/20 Duluth TW; late south 5/27 Goodhue RJ, AP, 5/31 Olmsted BSE; late north 5/27 Duluth AB, AP.

Semipalmated Sandpiper

Early south 4/13 Big Stone SC, 4/24 Pipestone JP; early north 5/19 Lake of the Woods KH, 5/21 Aitkin WN; late south 5/29 Hennepin DZ, 5/30 Mower and Olmsted (100) AP, 5/31 Goodhue JD and Olmsted BSE; late north 5/29 Aitkin WN, 5/31 Wilkin KB.

Least Sandpiper

Early south 4/21 Mower AP, 4/24 Pipestone JP; early north 5/11 Mille Lacs SC, 5/13 Pennington RJ; late south 5/30 Olmsted AP, 5/31 Brown JS, Goodhue JD and Pope BR;

late north 5/28 Clay LCF and St. Louis AB, 5/31 Wilkin KB.

White-rumped Sandpiper

Early south 5/7 Cottonwood ED, 5/14 Lyon AB; late south 5/27 Wabasha AP and 5/28 Mower RJ, AP, 5/31 Brown JS, Dodge BSE, Goodhue JD and Pope BR; only north reports 5/22-28 Duluth m.ob., 5/31 Wilkin KB.

Baird's Sandpiper

Early south 4/1 Pipestone KE, 4/5 Murray JP; late south 5/23 Hennepin OJ, 5/31 Dodge BSE and Goodhue JD; only north report 5/20-28 Duluth m.ob.

Pectoral Sandpiper

Early south 4/1 Nobles KE, 4/2 Goodhue AP and Olmsted AB; early north 5/7 Aitkin WN, 5/19 Lake of the Woods KH; late south 5/27 Anoka SC, Nicollet JCF and Wabasha RJ, AP, 5/31 Brown JS, Dodge BSE and Goodhue JD; late north 5/27 St. Louis AB, 5/31 Clay LCF.

Dunlin

Early south 5/5 Nicollet JCF, 5/7 Cottonwood ED; early north 5/12 Duluth DK, 5/19 Lake of the Woods KH; late south 5/27 Nicollet JCF, Olmsted BSE, Wabasha and Goodhue RJ, AP and Wright EL, ES, 5/31 Goodhue JD; late north 5/21 Aitkin WN, 5/31 Wilkin KB.

Stilt Sandpiper

All reports: 5/5 Hennepin OJ, 5/14 Brown AB, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle SC, GP, 5/21-27 Wright ES, 5/25 Blue Earth JCF, 5/27 Nicollet JCF, MF, 5/28 Mower RJ, AP.

Short-billed Dowitcher

Early south 5/8 Lincoln TG, 5/9 Lac Qui Parle CMB; early north 5/6 Cook OSL, 5/12 Aitkin SC; late south 5/21 Kandiyohi AB, 5/31 Brown JS; late north 5/19 Duluth BP, 5/31 Wilkin KB.

Long-billed Dowitcher

All reports: 5/5 Rock ND, 5/6 Le Sueur LF and Steele AP, 5/13 Blue Earth JCF, 5/14-16 Olmsted m.ob. 5/15 Dakota JD, 5/21 Kandiyohi AB and Lac Qui Parle SC, GP.

Common Snipe

Early south 3/25 Watonwan RJ, 3/27 Olm-

sted BSE, 4/1 Fillmore and Mower AP; early north 4/16 Clay LCF, 4/17 Otter Tail SDM, 4/19 Aitkin WN.

American Woodcock

Early south 3/21 Ramsey KB, 3/23 Houston EMF and Olmsted PP, 3/24 Benton DO, Fillmore NAO and Washington WL; early north 3/27 Beltrami KH, 3/29 Duluth LP, 4/5 Cook OSL.

Wilson's Phalarope

Early south 4/18 Murray ND, 4/20 Dodge BSE, 4/25 Mower RRK; early north 5/13 Clay LCF, Pennington RJ, AP and Polk AP, 5/15 Morrison GS, 5/21 Aitkin WN.

Red-necked Phalarope

All reports: 5/6 Dodge AP, Cottonwood (no date) ED, 5/18 Hennepin m.ob., 5/23 Nicollet MF, 5/25 Wilkin KB, 5/27 Wright ES, 5/28 Dodge BSE and Mower RJ, AP.

LAUGHING GULL

5/27 Whitewater WMA, Wabasha/Winona Co. (5) RJ, AP (*The Loon* 61:152-153), 5/28 Duluth (2 ad.) JG (*The Loon* 61:93).

Franklin's Gull

Early south 3/24 Dakota RJ, 3/28 Pipestone JP, 4/1 Goodhue BL and Nobles KE; early north 4/3 Otter Tail SDM, 4/16 Pennington SKS.

Bonaparte's Gull

Early south 4/9 Houston FL, 4/11 Houston AP, 4/13 Freeborn RJ and Meeker SC; early north 4/16 Mille Lacs AB, 4/22 Todd PH, 4/23 Wilkin RJ.

Ring-billed Gull

Early north 3/25 Otter Tail SDM, 3/26 Duluth m.ob., 4/2 Clay LCF.

Herring Gull

Reported from 15 north and 21 south counties.

Thayer's Gull

All reports: 3/6-11 Lake KE, 4/13 Freeborn RJ, 4/27 Carver AB.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL

5/6 Winona BF, et al. (*The Loon* 61:83-84).

Glaucous Gull

All reports: 4/27 Carver AB, RG, 5/1 Duluth MH.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE

4/20 Bemidji, Beltrami Co. DJ (*The Loon* 61:84-85).

Caspian Tern

Early south 4/26 Wabasha and Winona AP, 4/27 Carver AB, RG and Hennepin SC, ES, 4/29 Olmsted BSE, AP; early north 4/27 Crow Wing GS, 5/1 Duluth MH, 5/5 Cass TS.

Common Tern

Early south 4/24 Hennepin RH, 4/30 Steele KV and Washington WL, 5/2 Dakota JD; early north 5/7 Aitkin WN, 5/11 Duluth TW, 5/16 Kittson TR.

Forster's Tern

Early south 4/14 Hennepin AB, Ramsey KB and Waseca KV, 4/15 Blue Earth TEB, MF and Sibley RJ, 4/17 Goodhue JD; early north 4/22 Todd PH, 4/25 Beltrami DJ, 4/30 Crow Wing AB.

Black Tern

Early south 5/4 Hennepin SC, 5/5 Nicollet JCF, 5/6 Mower JM and Steele KV; early north 5/13 Mahanomen and Pennington AP, 5/14 Wilkin KB, 5/17 Beltrami DJ.

Rock Dove

Reported from 14 north and 30 south counties.

Mourning Dove

Early north 3/28 Pennington SKS, 3/31 Otter Tail SDM, 4/6 Aitkin WN.

Black-billed Cuckoo

Early south 5/9 Olmsted JB, 5/13 Winona MF, 5/14 Pipestone AB and Washington TEB; early north 5/16 Clay LCF, 5/17 Duluth KE, 5/20 Aitkin WN.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo

Early south 5/13 Lyon TG and Olmsted PP, 5/20 Murray ND, Rice OR and Scott AB, 5/21 Faribault KWB; one north report 5/21 Beltrami DJ.

Eastern Screech-Owl

Reported from Fillmore, Hennepin, Houston, Jackson, Le Sueur, Mower, Murray, Olm-

sted and Rice Counties. Also reported from Hubbard and Itasca but they need documentation.

Great Horned Owl

Reported from ten north and 30 south counties.

Snowy Owl

Only reports: 3/5 Aitkin WN, 3/13 Kittson TR.

Burrowing Owl

Only reports: mid April Crookston, Polk Co. fide KH, Rock m.ob. (nesting).

Barred Owl

Reported from seven north and 15 south counties.

Great Gray Owl

All reports: 3/5-5/31 Aitkin (2) WN, 3/11 Carlton DJ, 3/16-4/26 Cook OSL, WP, 3/22 Cedar Creek NHA, Anoka Co. JH, 4/8-15 Lake m.ob., 4/9-5/28 St. Louis (five birds at four locations) m.ob., 4/16 Duluth fide RS, 5/23 Koochiching RG (*The Loon* 61:115-117).

Long-eared Owl

All reports: 4/1 Fillmore m.ob., 4/2 Ramsey RG, 4/12-23 Clay m.ob., 4/20 Cook KMH, 5/8 Murray ND.

Short-eared Owl

All reports: 3/26 Clay LCF, 4/16 Anoka GP, 4/17-30 Aitkin WN, 4/28 Cook WP, 5/9 Lincoln RG, 5/17 Wilkin KB.

Boreal Owl

All reports: 3/14 Ball Club, Itasca Co. TS; five dead birds were turned in from Roseau and Beltrami during March (KH). Also nested in Lake and Cook. (*The Loon* 61:115-117).

Northern Saw-whet Owl

Reported from Aitkin, Clearwater, Cook, Hubbard, Olmsted and St. Louis Counties.

Common Nighthawk

Early south 5/6 Goodhue SC, GP, 5/7 Ramsey KB, BL, 5/9 Washington TBB; early north 5/13 Koochiching GM, 5/14 Todd PH, 5/15 Aitkin WN.

Whip-poor-will

Early south 4/24 Fillmore NAO, 4/25 Dodge fide AP and Houston EMF, 4/29 Washington DS; early north 5/12 Cook OSL, 5/13 St. Louis AE, 5/20 Duluth DAB.

Chimney Swift

Early south 4/21 Brown JS and Rice OR, 4/22 Hennepin SC, 4/23 Cottonwood ED; early north 5/3 Otter Tail SDM, 5/8 Pennington SKS, 5/11 St. Louis SS.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird

Early south 4/26 Olmsted BSE, 5/6 Le Sueur MF, 5/9 Cottonwood ED, Houston EMF and Rice OR; early north 5/9 Hubbard JL, 5/10 Becker BK, 5/13 Beltrami KH.

Belted Kingfisher

Early north 4/13 Aitkin WN, 4/14 Todd PH, 4/16 Becker BK, Duluth MH, CO, Itasca TS, Kanabec AB and Pennington SKS.

Red-headed Woodpecker

Early north 5/8 Clay LCF, 5/20 Duluth MH and Pennington SKS, 5/22 Beltrami fide DJ.

Red-bellied Woodpecker

Reported from Aitkin, Becker, Crow Wing, Duluth, Morrison and Wadena RJ, in the north and from 30 south counties.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Early south 4/2 Mower RRR, 4/10 Washington DS, 4/13 Fillmore NAO and Rice OR; early north 4/5 Cook OSL, 4/8 Duluth DK, 4/18 Itasca TS.

Downy Woodpecker

Reported from 19 north and 32 south counties.

Hairy Woodpecker

Reported from 16 north and 32 south counties.

Black-backed Woodpecker

All reports: 3/2 St. Louis MH/JS; 5/4 Cook OSL; throughout period Beltrami DJ and Cook KMH; 5/14 Lake KP (*The Loon* 61:147).

Northern Flicker

Early north 4/1 Aitkin WN, 4/5 Otter Tail SDM, 4/8 Clay LCF.

Pileated Woodpecker

Reported from 30 south and 16 north counties.

Olive-sided Flycatcher

Early south 5/3 Dakota AB, 5/9 Washington WL, 5/13 Brown JS, Cottonwood ED, Fillmore NAO and Le Sueur EK; early north 5/20 Duluth KE, 5/21 Clay LCF; late south 5/30 Anoka JH, Hennepin ES, Olmsted JB, and Stearns BR, 5/31 Brown JS.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Early south 4/21 (I still have a problem with April dates for this species, Ed.) Wabasha DWM, 5/7 Dodge BSE, 5/11 Pipestone JP; early north 5/13 St. Louis CO, 5/17 Becker BK.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher

Early south 5/10 Dodge BSE, 5/11 Pipestone JP, 5/14 Hennepin KE; early north 5/20 Duluth KE, 5/23 Cook KMH; late south 5/30 Brown JS, Dakota JD and Hennepin ES.

Acadian Flycatcher

All reports: 5/13 (earliest date on record) Winona MF, 5/20 Scott DB, 5/20-29 Hennepin SC et al., 5/21-28 Houston m.ob.

Alder Flycatcher

Early south 5/17 Hennepin DB, 5/19 Brown JS; early north 5/12 Clay LCF, 5/17 Duluth KE; late south 5/31 Hennepin SC and DB, Dakota JD and Brown JS.

Willow Flycatcher

Early south 5/9 Hennepin OJ and Olmsted BSE, 5/11 Houston EMF, 5/13 Goodhue APR; only north reports 5/27 Wilkin KB, 5/29 Clay LCF.

Least Flycatcher

Early south 4/17 (earliest date on record) Rice OR, 4/29 Hennepin SC, 5/2 Olmsted PP; early north 4/11 (earliest date on record) Hubbard JL, 4/30 Aitkin WN, 5/8 Beltrami DJ.

Eastern Phoebe

Early south 3/26 Dakota JD, Houston EMF and FL, Le Sueur MTS, Mower JM, Pope DO; early north 3/27 (earliest date on record) Aitkin WN, 4/5 Otter Tail SDM, 4/7 Clay LCF.

Great Crested Flycatcher

Early south 5/2 Ramsey KB, 5/4 Hennepin AB and Olmsted PP, 5/5 Houston AP; early north 4/23 Hubbard JL, 5/3 Todd PH, 5/6 Aitkin WN.

Western Kingbird

Early south 5/4 Hennepin OJ, 5/9 Lincoln TG; early north 5/12 Kittson TR, 5/13 Clay LCF, 5/14 Wilkin KB.

Eastern Kingbird

Early south 4/25 Houston EMF, 4/29 Scott AB and Goodhue APR, 5/4 Dakota AP and Olmsted BSE; early north 5/11 Beltrami DJ and Wilkin KB, 5/13 Clay LCF, 5/15 Aitkin WN, Morrison GS and St. Louis SS, KE.

Horned Lark

Reported from 41 counties south; early north 3/1 Todd PH, 3/4 Aitkin WN, 3/8 Hubbard HJF and Otter Tail KH.

Purple Martin

Early south 4/1 Fillmore AP, RJ, 4/3 Rice OR, 4/8 Redwood AP; early north 4/16 Mille Lacs AB, 4/17 Otter Tail SDM, 4/21 Becker BK and Beltrami DJ.

Tree Swallow

Early south 3/24 Anoka SC and Goodhue BL, ES, 3/25 Dakota DZ, 3/27 Sherburne DO, Steele KV and Washington DJ; early north 4/14 Aitkin WN, 4/15 Duluth KE and Todd PH, 4/16 Mille Lacs AB, Isanti GS and Becker BK.

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Early south 4/15 Washington DZ, 4/17 Ramsey AB, 4/18 Fillmore NAO and Goodhue APR; early north 4/17 Otter Tail SDM, 4/21 Todd PH, 4/23 Clay LCF.

Bank Swallow

Early south 4/14 Washington BL, 4/23 Brown JS, 4/24 Ramsey RH; early north 4/30 Carlton GS, 5/16 Lake of the Woods TR, 5/18 Beltrami DJ.

Cliff Swallow

Early south 4/3 (earliest date on record) Sherburne DO, 4/23 Lac Qui Parle OJ and AB, 4/24 Olmsted PP; early north 4/30 Aitkin AB and WN, Beltrami DJ and St. Louis SS, 5/1 Marshall SKS, 5/7 Cook WP.

Barn Swallow

Early south 4/3 Sherburne DO, 4/15 Murray ND, 4/16 Fillmore AP and Olmsted JB; early north 3/29 Todd PH, 4/30 Crow Wing AB, Aitkin WN and St. Louis SS, 5/4 Beltrami DJ.

Gray Jay

Reported from eleven counties north.

Blue Jay

Reported from 36 south and 15 north counties.

Black-billed Magpie

Reported from Aitkin (two pair nesting) WN; Koochiching, Marshall, Norman, Pennington and St. Louis Counties.

American Crow

Reported from 32 south and 17 north counties.

Common Raven

Reported 3/3 Hennepin OJ, 4/2 Anoka JH and eleven north counties.

Black-capped Chickadee

Reported from 34 south and 16 north counties.

Boreal Chickadee

Reported from Aitkin, Lake and St. Louis Counties.

Tufted Titmouse

All reports 3/8 Olmsted JB, 3/12 Houston AB, 5/22 Scott AP.

Red-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from six south and nine north counties.

White-breasted Nuthatch

Reported from 32 south and 14 north counties.

Brown Creeper

Reported from 25 south and 11 north counties.

CAROLINA WREN

Seen until 4/24 Coon Rapids, Anoka Co., GP (*The Loon* 60:188).

House Wren

Early south 4/9 Olmsted AP, 4/15 Blue Earth LF, 4/20 Murray ND; early north 5/4 Clay LCF, 5/6 Pennington SKS, Becker BK.

Winter Wren

Early south 3/25 Fillmore NAO, 3/29 Ramsey KB, 4/1 Rice OR; early north 3/27 (earliest date on record) Duluth KE, 4/5 Cook KMH, 4/9 Clay LCF; late south 5/6 Hennepin DC and Houston EMF, 5/13 Olmsted BSE.

Sedge Wren

Early south 4/25 Pipestone JP, 4/30 Hennepin ES, 5/5 Ramsey RH; early north 5/13 Mahnomen AP, 5/16 Aitkin WN.

Marsh Wren

Early south 5/5 Hennepin ES, 5/7 Goodhue AB, 5/9 Dakota JD, Ramsey RH and Washington TEB; early north 5/12 Wilkin KB, 5/20 Duluth TW and Marshall SKS.

Golden-crowned Kinglet

Early north 3/27 Duluth KE, 4/12 Polk SKS, 4/15 Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/2 Ramsey AB and KB and Olmsted PP, 5/6 Goodhue SC, 5/15 Hennepin DZ.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Early south 3/26 Pope DO, 3/29 Hennepin SC and Ramsey KB; early north 4/13 Clay LCF, 4/15 Aitkin WN and Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/20 Hennepin SC and Washington DS, 5/21 Lac Qui Parle AB.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

Early south 4/21 Houston AP, 4/24 Ramsey KB, 4/25 Rice OR; all reports north: 5/5 Duluth MH, 5/8 Grant and Otter Tail RG, 5/15 Morrison GS.

Eastern Bluebird

Early south 3/22 Brown JS, Blue Earth MF, Fillmore GMD and NAO, Houston EMF and Rice FKS, 3/23 Le Sueur MTS and Mower JM; early north 3/26 Otter Tail SDM, 3/31 Todd PH, 4/2 Aitkin WN and Clay LCF.

Mountain Bluebird

Only reports: 3/25 Brown AB and BL, 4/1 Rock KE et. al.

Veery

Early south 5/1 Olmsted JB, 5/4 Hennepin

AB and SC, 5/5 Anoka GP; early north 5/13 Clearwater RJ, AP, 5/14 Clay LCF, 5/16 Duluth TW.

Gray-cheeked Thrush

Early south 5/2 Hennepin SC and Pipestone JP, 5/5 Ramsey AB and Anoka GP, 5/6 Washington RH; early north 5/8 Clay LCF, 5/15 Morrison GS; late south 5/23 Steele EK, 5/28 Fillmore NAO.

Swainson's Thrush

Early south 4/13 Cottonwood ED, 4/15 Steele KV, 4/26 Wabasha PP; early north 5/2 Clay LCF, 5/5 Morrison GS, 5/6 Cook OSL; late south 5/26 Hennepin DB, 5/31 Brown JS.

Hermit Thrush

Early south 3/28 Mower RRR, 4/5 Hennepin SC, 4/6 Brown JS and Ramsey KB; early north 4/16 Duluth KE and TW, 4/17 Cook WP, 4/18 Marshall SKS; late south 5/17 Goodhue Apr, 5/20 Ramsey KB.

Wood Thrush

Early south 5/5 Le Sueur EK, 5/6 Freeborn AP and RJ, 5/9 Hennepin SC, Olmsted BSE and Lac Qui Parle CMB; only north reports 5/21 Cook OSL, 5/29 Aitkin WN.

American Robin

Reported from 39 south and 20 north counties.

Varied Thrush

Only reports, 3/11 Stearns RG, RJ, AP, 4/13 Faribault KWB.

Gray Catbird

Early south 4/22 Washington DS, 4/26 Mower JM, 5/1 Fillmore NAO and Houston EMF; early north 5/12 Becker BK, 5/13 Clay LCF, 5/15 Aitkin WN.

Northern Mockingbird

All reports: 4/26 Pennington SKS, 5/3 Dakota JD, 5/18 Sherburne DO, 5/20 Scott AB.

Brown Thrasher

Early south 4/18 Mower RRR, 4/20 Dodge BSE and Fillmore NAO; early north 4/24 Norman RJ, 5/1 Duluth KE, 5/3 Clay LCF.

American Pipit

Early south 4/2 Cottonwood KE, 5/16-25

Olmsted JB, AP, 5/18 Goodhue JD; only north report 5/20 Duluth KE.

Bohemian Waxwing

Late south 3/25 Anoka GP, 4/2 Dakota JD; late north 4/3 Pennington SKS, 4/16 Duluth KE, 4/27 Cook KMH.

Cedar Waxwing

Reported from 25 south and eight north counties.

Northern Shrike

Late south 3/12 Wabasha Apr, 3/23 Hennepin SC, 3/25 Blue Earth AB, Nicollet RJ and Winona SC; late north 4/1 Aitkin WN, 4/8 Cook OSL, 4/22 St. Louis AE.

Loggerhead Shrike

Early south 4/1 Washington TBB, 4/2 Houston AB and Dakota JD, 4/4 Hennepin OJ; early north 4/5 Beltrami KH, 4/18 Clay DJ.

European Starling

Reported from 39 south and 18 north counties.

WHITE-EYED VIREO

5/13 Isaac Walton Wetlands, Olmsted Co. BSE (*The Loon* 61:94); 5/28 Moorhead, Clay Co. LCF (*The Loon* 61:148-149).

Bell's Vireo

All reports: 5/14 Winona ES, 5/22 Dakota AB, 5/25 Goodhue AP, 5/29 Wabasha KE, et al.

Solitary Vireo

Early south 4/27 Hennepin SC, 4/30 Olmsted BSE, 5/2 Ramsey AB; early north 5/10 Cook KMH, 5/14 Clay LCF and Pennington SKS; late south 5/21 Lac Qui Parle AB, 5/27 Houston EMF.

Yellow-throated Vireo

Early south 5/6 Goodhue m.ob., 5/7 Brown JS and Ramsey KE, 5/10 Dakota JD; early north 5/13 Clay LCF, Itasca BK, Pennington RJ, AP, 5/20 Duluth KE.

Warbling Vireo

Early south 4/27 Olmsted JB, 5/1 Fillmore GMD, 5/2 Steele EK; early north 5/12 Clay LCF and Wilkin KB, 5/13 Itasca TS and Mahnomen, Pennington, and Polk RJ, AP.

Philadelphia Vireo

Early south 5/5 Ramsey AB, 5/11 Olmsted BSE, 5/12 Hennepin DC; early north 5/14 Clay LCF, 5/18 Cook WP, 5/19 Duluth KE; late south 5/20 Dodge BSE, 5/21 Mower RRK.

Red-eyed Vireo

Early south 5/8 Blue Earth JCF and Dakota JD, 5/9 Houston EMF, 5/11 Hennepin DC, Olmsted PP and Rice OR; early north 5/12 Hubbard JL, 5/13 Itasca BK and Polk RJ, AP, 5/14 Clay LCF.

Blue-winged Warbler

Early south 4/30 Steele AP, 5/4 Houston EMF, 5/6 Washington RH; "Brewster's" Warbler 5/11 Cottonwood ED, "Lawrence's" Warbler 5/13 Fillmore NAO, (*The Loon* 61:142).

Golden-winged Warbler

Early south 5/6 Freeborn AP, RJ, Hennepin OJ, Washington RH and Wright AB, 5/8 Olmsted PP, 5/11 Blue Earth JCF; early north 5/17 St. Louis KE, 5/21 Aitkin WN, 5/25 Carlton GS.

Tennessee Warbler

Early south 4/28 Mower JM, 5/4 Nicollet MF, 5/5 Houston AP and Ramsey AB; early north 5/3 Marshall SKS, 5/10 St. Louis AE, 5/12 Hubbard JL; late south 5/24 Nicollet LF, 5/25 Hennepin SC, 5/27 Wabasha RJ.

Orange-crowned Warbler

Early south 4/22 Dakota JD and Lac Qui Parle m.ob., 4/23 Hennepin SC, Big Stone DO and Cottonwood ED; early north 4/23 Clay RJ, 5/3 Todd PH; late south 5/16 Hennepin SC, 5/19 Blue Earth LF; late north 5/20 Marshall SKS, 5/22 Clay LCF.

Nashville Warbler

Early south 4/21 Scott LF, 4/22 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 4/24 Hennepin SC; early north 5/3 Todd PH, 5/6 Cook KMH, 5/9 Beltrami DJ; late south 5/22 Hennepin SC, 5/24 Houston EMF.

Northern Parula

Early south 4/27 Hennepin SC, 5/5 Ramsey AB, 5/9 Olmsted BSE; early north 5/11 Duluth KE and Hubbard JL, 5/12 Cook KMH, 5/13 Itasca BK; late south 5/18 Olmsted PP, 5/19 Hennepin SC.

Yellow Warbler

Early south 4/27 Olmsted PP, 4/29 Rice OR, 5/1 Cottonwood ED; early north 5/6 Duluth KE, 5/7 Clay LCF, 5/8 Beltrami DJ.

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Early south 5/6 Goodhue SC and GP, 5/7 Hennepin DZ, 5/9 Houston AP and Blue Earth MF; early north 5/11 Hubbard JL, 5/13 St. Louis SS, 5/18 Clay LCF and Cook WP.

Magnolia Warbler

Early south 5/5 Ramsey AB and Anoka GP, 5/6 Goodhue SC, 5/7 Hennepin OJ; early north 5/13 Cook KMH, 5/14 Clay LCF, 5/16 St. Louis AE; late south 5/25 Hennepin SC, 5/31 Brown JS.

Cape May Warbler

Early south 5/5 Hennepin ES and SC, 5/6 Goodhue GP, 5/9 Rice OR; early north 5/5 Duluth KE, 5/13 Cook KMH, 5/15 Beltrami DJ; late south 5/20 Ramsey KB, 5/21 Meeker AB.

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Only reports: 5/17 Cook KMH, 5/18-20 Duluth (12) m.ob.

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Early south 4/5 Wabasha DWM, 4/10 Washington DS, 4/13 Fillmore NAO and Rice OR; early north 4/15 Otter Tail SDM, 4/16 Duluth KE, Pine AB and St. Louis AE, 4/18 Cook KMH; late south 5/30 Sherburne, 5/31 Stearns BR.

Black-throated Green Warbler

Early south 4/26 Houston EMF, 4/29 Rice OR, 5/3 Hennepin DZ; early north 5/11 Cook KMH and Duluth TW, 5/13 Clay LCF and Itasca BK, 5/17 Beltrami DJ; late south 5/23 Hennepin SC.

Blackburnian Warbler

Early south 5/4 Hennepin ES, 5/7 Scott DC, 5/9 Blue Earth MF, Goodhue AP, Houston EMF and Rice OR; early north 5/6 Duluth KE, 5/12 Cook KMH and Itasca BK, 5/13 Clay LCF, Mahnomen AP and Polk RJ; late south 5/22 Mower RRK, 5/30 Brown JS.

Pine Warbler

Early south 4/24 Dakota AB, 5/6 Freeborn RG et al. and Goodhue SC and GP, 5/9

Washington (6) WL; early north 4/29 St. Louis KB, 5/3 Beltrami DJ, 5/7 Crow Wing WN; late south 5/19 Hennepin ES and Houston AP.

PRAIRIE WARBLER

5/13 Elm Creek Park, Hennepin Co. SC (*The Loon* 61:82-83).

Palm Warbler

Early south 4/22 Anoka GP and Steele DZ, 4/23 Swift DO, 4/24 Dakota AB, Hennepin ES and Le Sueur EK; early north 4/24 Duluth KE, 4/26 Clay LCF, 4/30 Crow Wing AB; late south 5/20 Hennepin m.ob., 5/21 Meeker SC.

Bay-breasted Warbler

Early south 5/4 Fillmore NAO, 5/10 Hennepin OJ, 5/11 Olmsted JB, BSE; early north 5/17 Cook KMH, 5/19 Duluth KE, 5/24 Marshall SKS; late south 5/23 Hennepin SC.

Blackpoll Warbler

Early south 5/5 Hennepin ES, SC and Anoka GP, 5/7 Rice OR, 5/8 Murray ND; early north 5/12 Hubbard JL, 5/14 Clay LCF; late south 5/27 Houston KE, 5/31 Brown JS.

Cerulean Warbler

Early south 5/13 Goodhue AB, 5/15 Dakota JD, 5/18 Steele KV; also reported from Brown, Houston and Stearns.

Black-and-white Warbler

Early south 4/26 Pipestone JP, 4/27 Brown JS, Lyon TG, 4/28 Murray ND, Rice OR; early north 5/2 Clay LCF, 5/5 Hubbard JL, Morrison GS, Pennington SKS, Duluth MH/JS.

American Redstart

Early south 5/5 Anoka GP, Hennepin JD, Houston AP, 5/6 Hennepin SC, Goodhue AB, Houston EMF, Mower JM, Scott DC; early north 5/7 Pennington SKS, 5/11 LCF, Hubbard JL, 5/13 Polk RJ, AP.

Prothonotary Warbler

Early south 5/6 Dakota JD, Goodhue SC, GP, 5/7 Hennepin m.ob.

Ovenbird

Early south 4/29 Winona FL, 5/3 Hennepin SC, ES, DZ, Ramsey RH, 5/4 Ramsey KB;

early north 5/10 Clay LCF, 5/11 Beltrami DJ, St. Louis CO, 5/13 Clearwater AP, Itasca BK.

Northern Waterthrush

Early south 4/19 Fillmore NAO, 4/25 Hennepin SC, GP, ES, 4/26 Goodhue AP, Houston EMF, Pipestone JP, Ramsey KB; early north 5/4 Beltrami DJ, 5/5 Pennington SKS, Duluth MH, 5/7 Aitkin WN; late south 5/15 Wabasha WDM, 5/20 Hennepin SC, 5/31 Brown JS.

Louisiana Waterthrush

Early south 5/5 Houston AP, 5/7 Winona AP, 5/11 Olmsted JB.

Kentucky Warbler

Early south 5/9 Houston AP (*The Loon* 61:90-91), 5/20 Lac Qui Parle BL.

Connecticut Warbler

Early south 5/8 LeSueur EK, 5/11 Cottonwood ED, 5/19 Hennepin SC, ES; early north 5/19 Duluth KE, 5/20 Aitkin WN, 5/22 Clay LCF; late south 5/22 Hennepin SC, 5/31 Dakota JD.

Mourning Warbler

Early south 5/13 Hennepin SC, Murray ND, Nicollet JCF, Olmsted JB, BSE, 5/14 Hennepin DZ, Pipestone AB, 5/15 Hennepin DC, Olmsted RG, AP; early north 5/17 Duluth KE, 5/20 St. Louis AE, Duluth TW; Otter Tail SDM; late south 5/28 Houston KE, 5/30 Stearns BR, 5/31 Brown JS, Dakota JD, Hennepin DB, SC.

Common Yellowthroat

Early south 5/4 Murray ND, 5/5 Cottonwood ED, Hennepin SC, Houston EMF, AP, Mower JM, Ramsey AB; early north 4/27 St. Louis AE, 5/6 Becker BK, 5/7 Polk SKS, 5/10 Todd PH.

Wilson's Warbler

Early south 4/23 Fillmore GMD, 5/5 Anoka GP, Ramsey AB, 5/7 Hennepin OJ, DZ; early north 5/11 Hubbard JL, 5/13 Beltrami DJ, 5/14 Clay LCF; late south 5/22 Dakota JD, 5/25 Hennepin SC, Lac Qui Parle FE, 5/27 Houston EMF.

Canada Warbler

Early south 5/2 Blue Earth MF, 5/9 Houston AP, 5/12 Pipestone JP; early north 5/11

Hubbard JL, 5/19 Duluth KE, 5/20 Duluth TW; late south 5/23 Hennepin SC, 5/26 Hennepin DB, 5/31 Nicollet JS.

Yellow-breasted Chat

One report: 5/27 Wilkin KB.

Scarlet Tanager

Early south 5/5 Houston EMF, 5/7 Rice OR, 5/11 Olmsted JB, BSE; early north 5/19 Duluth KE, 5/20 Duluth TW, 5/21 Crow Wing WN, Morrison DJ.

WESTERN Tanager

5/7 thru 5/14 Olmsted FW, (*The Loon* 61:91).

Northern Cardinal

Four reports north 3/23 Cook WP, 4/16 Kittson TR, 5/10 Beltrami KH, 5/16 Aitkin WN, Reported from 30 counties south.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Early south 4/23 Cottonwood ED, 5/1 Fillmore NAO, 5/2 Dakota JD; early north 5/4 Clay LCF, 5/5 Duluth LP, 5/6 Hubbard JL.

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK

5/6 Winona TH, (*The Loon* 61:84), 5/11 Lac Qui Parle CMB.

Blue Grosbeak

Early south 5/13 Murray ND, 5/23 Nobles ND, 5/27 Pipestone ND.

LAZULI BUNTING

5/14 Becker BMW (*The Loon* 61:141).

Indigo Bunting

Early south 5/2 Mower JM, 5/4 Rice OR, 5/5 Ramsey AB; early north 5/11 Becker BK, 6/16 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, 5/17 Koochiching GM, Duluth TW.

Dickcissel

Early south 5/12 Cottonwood ED, 5/14 Murray AB, ND, 5/16 Lyon TG.

Rufous-sided Towhee

Early south 4/17 Houston EMF, 5/2 Winona AP, 5/18 Fillmore NAO; early north 5/6 Duluth KE, 5/12 Wadena RJ, 5/30 Kittson TR.

American Tree Sparrow

Late south 4/21 Olmsted Apr, 4/22 Steele

KV, 5/1 Wabasha AP; late north 5/5 Lake of the Woods GM, 5/9 Cook KMH, 5/29 Cook OSL.

Chipping Sparrow

Early south 3/26 Lac Qui Parle FE, Swift DO, 4/5 Rice OR, 4/10 Houston EMF; early north 4/21 Clay LCF, 4/23 Clay RJ, Otter Tail SDM, 4/25 Becker BK.

Clay-colored Sparrow

Early south 4/21 Faribault KWB, 4/23 LeSueur EK, 4/25 Brown JS; early north 4/24 Clay LCF, 5/3 Marshall SKS, 5/4 Cook LF.

Field Sparrow

Early south 4/1 Washington TBB, 4/7 Anoka JH, Houston EMF, 4/12 Olmsted JB; early north 4/16 Clay LCF, 4/17 Cook OSL, 5/5 Kittson TR.

Vesper Sparrow

Early south 3/28 Murray ND, 4/2 Houston AB, 4/3 LeSueur EK; early north 4/16 Clay LCF, 4/26 Marshall SKS, 5/3 Todd PH.

Lark Sparrow

Early south 4/14 Anoka JH, 4/18 Washington DS, 4/22 Anoka GP; early north 5/8 Otter Tail RG, 5/17 Clay LCF, 5/27 Duluth AB.

Lark Bunting

One report: 5/25 Wilkin KB.

Savannah Sparrow

Early south 4/13 Yellow Medicine SC, 4/15 Fillmore GMD, Olmsted BSE, 4/16 Mower JM; early north 4/18 Aitkin WN, 4/21 Becker DJ, 4/23 Clay LCF.

Grasshopper Sparrow

Early south 4/28 Murray ND, 5/11 Dakota JD, Washington DS, 5/12 Cottonwood ED; early north 5/19 Wilkin KB.

Henslow's Sparrow

All reports: 5/3 Fillmore AP, 5/23 Wilkin KB, Winona FL, 5/29 Winona KE.

LeConte's Sparrow

Early south 5/4 Hennepin SC, ES, 5/21 Ramsey RH; early north 4/23 Clay RJ, 5/17 St. Louis KE.

Sharp-tailed Sparrow

One report 5/29 Wilkin KB.

Fox Sparrow

Early south 3/24 Fillmore NAO, 3/26 Brown JS, Dodge BSE, Hennepin ES; early north 3/30 Aitkin WN, 4/8 Duluth DK, late south 4/21 Fillmore NAO, 5/14 Anoka DZ; late north 5/6 Cook OSL, 5/9 Cook KMH.

Song Sparrow

Early north 3/26 Otter Tail SDM, 3/27 Todd PH, 3/28 Aitkin WN.

Lincoln's Sparrow

Early south 3/29 (earliest date on record) Brown JS, 4/19 Olmsted PP, 4/22 Cottonwood ED, Lac Qui Parle AB, OJ; early north 4/19 Cook WP, 4/24 Aitkin WN, Clay LCF, 5/3 Marshall SKS; late south 5/15 Lac Qui Parle CMB, Olmsted BSE, 5/16 Hennepin SC, 5/22 Lac Qui Parle FE, Nicollet JS.

Swamp Sparrow

Early south 3/27 Washington DS, 3/31 Dakota AB, 4/7 Anoka JH; early north 4/17 Cook KMH, 4/23 Clay LCF, 4/30 Mille Lacs AB.

White-throated Sparrow

Early south 3/9 (wintering bird?) Hennepin SC, 4/12 Washington DS, 4/15 Hennepin OJ; early north 4/17 Cook KMH, 4/20 Pennington SKS, 4/21 Clay LCF, St. Louis CO; late south 5/20 Hennepin GP, 5/22 Hennepin SC, 5/23 Mower JM.

White-crowned Sparrow

Early south 4/23 Big Stone DO, Lac Qui Parle FE, Washington DS, 4/25 Faribault KWB; early north 4/27 Clay LCF, 5/3 Cook OSL; late south 5/19 Hennepin AB, 5/20 Fillmore GMD, Mower JM; late north 5/16 Cook OSL, 5/20 Duluth KE, TW.

Harris' Sparrow

Early south 4/1 Rock KE, 4/2 Nobles KE; early north 5/2 Clay LCF, 5/5 Pennington SKS; late south 5/14 Brown JS, Nobles AB, 5/16 Nicollet LF; late north 5/18 Duluth KE, 5/21 Clay LCF.

Dark-eyed Junco

Late south 5/2 Hennepin DZ, 5/3 Fillmore NAO, Washington JD, 5/7 Houston EMF.

Lapland Longspur

Late south 4/22 Lac Qui Parle OJ, 4/23 Big Stone AB, 5/8 Dakota JD, AP; late north 4/26 Cook WP, 5/12 Wilkin LB.

Chestnut-collared Longspur

Two reports: 4/18 Clay DJ, 5/27 Lake AB (*The Loon* 61:146).

Snow Bunting

Late south 3/18 Mower JM, AP, 3/21 Goodhue AB, AP, 3/23 LeSueur MTS; late north 4/18 Clay DJ, 5/7 Cook WP, 5/11 Duluth TW.

Bobolink

Early south 4/25 Houston EMF, 5/2 Olmsted PP, 5/8 Murray ND; early north 5/9 Wilkin KB, 5/10 Aitkin WN, 5/11 Kittson TR.

Red-winged Blackbird

Early north 3/4 Beltrami KH, 3/26 Clay LCF, Otter Tail SDM, Todd PH, 3/27 Duluth DG.

Eastern Meadowlark

Early north 3/25 Aitkin WN, 3/30 Duluth KE, 4/1 Kittson TR.

Western Meadowlark

Early north 3/17 Pennington SKS, 3/19 Clay LCF, 3/26 Otter Tail SDM.

Yellow-headed Blackbird

Early south 4/5 Lac Qui Parle FE, 4/14 Hennepin AB, 4/15 Pipestone JP; early north 4/2 (earliest date on record) Clay LCF, 4/24 Aitkin WN, 4/25 Duluth DK.

Rusty Blackbird

Early south 3/4 Lac Qui Parle CMB, 3/11 Lac Qui Parle FE, Mower RRR, Olmsted JB; early north 4/9 Clay LCF, 4/13 Duluth KE; late south 4/21 Goodhue APR, 5/2 Ramsey KB; late north 5/7 Cook WP.

Brewer's Blackbird

Early south 3/22 Olmsted BSE, 3/24 Faribault AP, 3/26 Olmsted JB; early north 4/14 Aitkin WN, 4/16 Clay LCF, Pennington SKS, 4/18 Duluth KE.

Common Grackle

Early north 3/26 Otter Tail SDM, 3/27 Itasca TS, 3/28 Todd PH.

Brown-headed Cowbird

Early south 3/24 Nicollet JCF, 3/25 Blue Earth AB, 3/26 Hennepin JF.

Orchard Oriole

Early south 5/13 Fillmore GMD, NAO, 5/14 Brown JS, Murray AB, 5/15 Lac Qui Parle CMB, Murray ND; early north 5/24 Marshall SKS, 5/25 Wilkin KB, 5/28 Clay LCF.

Northern Oriole

Early south 4/25 Cottonwood ED, 4/27 Wabasha WDM, 5/1 Sherburne DO, Wabasha AP; early north 5/4 Beltrami DJ, 5/6 Aitkin WN, Pennington SKS, 5/8 Becker BK.

Pine Grosbeak

Late north 3/16 St. Louis AE, 4/6 Cook KMH, 4/16 Lake m.ob.

Purple Finch

Reported from 12 counties north and 22 counties south.

HOUSE FINCH

Reported from **Duluth**, Brown, Goodhue, Hennepin, Lac Qui Parle, Mower, Nicollet, Olmsted and Steele Counties.

Red Crossbill

Three reports: 4/9 Lake m.ob., 4/17 St. Louis KE, 5/3 Olmsted AP.

White-winged Crossbill

Reported from Aitkin, Clearwater, Cottonwood, Lake, Rice and St. Louis Counties.

Common Redpoll

Late south 3/5 Hennepin DB, 3/11 McLeod RJ, AP; late north 5/5 Cook KMH, 5/10 Koochiching GM, 5/11 St. Louis SS.

Hoary Redpoll

Late north 4/8 Lake DC, BSE, AP, 4/9 Lake m.ob., 4/12 Duluth KE.

Pine Siskin

Reported from nine counties north and 14 counties south.

American Goldfinch

Reported from 11 counties north and 26 counties south.

Evening Grosbeak

Reported from 12 counties north.

House Sparrow

Reported from 12 counties north and 23 counties south.

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FL	Fred Leshner	TR	Thomas Rusch
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BL	Bill Litkey	OR	Orwin Rustad
WL	William Longley	KRS	Kristen Schmidt
OSL	Orvis & Sandy Lunke	SS	Steve Schon
DWM	Don & Wynn Mahle	MTS	Mary & Tony Simon
GM	Grace Marquardt	GS	Gary Simonson
JMa	Josh Maus	TS	Tom Sobolik
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JM	John Morrison	DS	Dave Sovereign
WN	Warren Nelson	JS	Jack Sprenger
CO	Carol Oleson	ES	Evelyn Stanley
DO	Dan Orr	SKS	Shelly & Keith Steva
NAO	Nancy & Art Overcott	FKS	Forest & Kirsten Strnad
JP	Johanna Pals	KV	Ken Vail
LP	Leata Pearson	FW	Frank White III
PP	Paul Pedersen	TW	Terry Wiens
BP	Bill Penning	JJW	Jim & Jude Williams
GP	Greg Pietila	EW	Edgar Wolfe
AP	Anne Marie Plunkett	SW	Stan Wood
WP	Walter Popp	BMW	Bill & Mary Wyatt
APr	Al Prigge	DZ	Dave Zumeta
KP	Kevin Proescholdt	m.ob.	Many observers

Nine Owls

Jim Williams

It is 7:40 on the night before Halloween. I am standing on the deck outside our kitchen, thinking about steak on the grill. I am not thinking about screech-owls, although they have been on my mind in recent months. Indeed, screech-owls have gotten more of my time this year than some members of my family.

This year, 1989, was not half gone when you could see my owl dance card filling rapidly. But the screech-owl was missing. I needed it for my Minnesota life list and my year list too. The little owl, quite common but a complete frustration for me, would loom big as a buzzard as the year passed.

I got off to a snappy start with owls in January. I found a Snowy Owl on the second day of the year at the Twin Cities International Airport, perched on a transformer tower — not exactly a textbook setting. It brought to

mind my first-ever Snowy Owl, certainly my best one. Jude (my wife) and I were cross-country skiing in the hills behind Cascade Lodge in Cook County. We were coming down a long slope. Jude was behind me.

"Look," she cried, "A Snowy Owl."

Jude does this to me often. Say we are in our van, driving along at five or 10 mph over the speed limit.

"Look," she'll suddenly say, "A Turkey Vulture."

Let's say this is early spring, so I would like to see this vulture, first of the season. I look out and up through the windshield, quickly scanning the sky as the bird has pulled behind us. No vulture. I look out my side window, crane around to peek through Jude's arms, out her window. I look in all the mirrors. There is no vulture. For all I know I have run over the bird, which apparently

would be the only circumstance which would allow me to see it.

"It's behind us," Jude says. I knew that.

Long ago I quit trying to get Jude to add even a tiny bit of information to her heart-stopping cries of, "Look!" Look up. Look left. Look here. It's no use. So there on that ski hill, behind me, she shouts, "Look! A Snowy Owl!"

I try to look behind me. I am on skis, you recall, moving rapidly. And then I look straight up. The owl is there, wings extended, quietly gliding over me, a beautiful bird, white and black against a still blue sky. I am thrilled. Then I am all ski-tips and elbows, tumbling in explosions of snow, pieces of gear disappearing in the cloud. A world-class crash. Now **that** was an owl to remember!

Later in January, 1989 came a pair of Short-eared Owls. They were mentioned on Bob Janssen's Minnesota Bird Report. We found the owls in the Carlos Avery Refuge on a Friday. Four cars of viewers were there. First one owl flew solo, its great soft wings conducting the fading afternoon light, sunlight played as Baroque music. A second owl came from the tree line. They played a duet.

The Barred Owl we saw a few minutes later, on our way home, was a bonus.

The very next day a Great Horned Owl called from a tree in our yard. That made four owl species in January. Not bad.

We began listening for Boreal Owls behind the Sawtooth Mountains along the North Shore in late March. We heard Barred Owls and wolves. But on May 12 along the Caribou Trail, after driving for two hours and stopping the van every 50 feet, I got lucky. The window went down, the voice of the Boreal Owl came in. It called a dozen times.

Unfortunately, Jude was back in Minnetonka that evening. Jude likes owls. You don't have to get up early for them. You can stay up late and accomplish the same thing. When she arrived on the North Shore a few days later, we tried but could not find the Boreal Owl for her. We did hear a Northern Saw-whet Owl, though. It was across Holly Lake on a cold, clear night, endless notes, one for each star we could see.

Now it is the end of May, 1989. Jude has driven back to the Cities. I am wandering around in the Sax-Zim bog, more or less following directions Kim Eckert has put on the Duluth telephone recorder. Great Gray Owls

were seen in this neighborhood during the Duluth Big Day count. I want those owls. I drive and drive. I find a Black-billed Magpie, another lifer. I want those owls. I turn the van left, drive one mile, turn left again. Now a pair of right turns. I weave through the flatness.

Kazaam! There is a Great Gray Owl. It materializes. If Jude was here I would shout, "Look! Right outside your window, 20 feet ahead of us, six feet off the ground, in the big brown tree, there on that branch on the left side. It's a Great Gray Owl!"

And 100 yards later I would have been able to say, "Ohmygod, on my side! It's another one!" That made seven species of owl. I am on a roll.

The Burrowing Owl was number eight. I saw it down in Rock County, tipped to its location by a state park ranger. I drove right up to the rock on which the owl sat. It was like a six-inch putt in golf, a gimme putt disguised as a Burrowing Owl.

So now I rub my hands together, ready to get serious about this screech-owl business. I call Bob Janssen, hoping he can walk me in on owl number nine.

"Yes," he says, maybe he can help. He knows this man in St. Paul who lives in a neighborhood owls frequent. The man gives Bob street intersections, likely hot spots. Bob relays the coordinates to me. It is like a bombing mission. I take off for St. Paul. I bomb.

I bomb several times in St. Paul. Even though one evening I accidentally find the screech-owl man himself, out walking his dog, I can't find an owl. (I would put the man's name in this story if I had not misplaced it*. I assure you that his name not being here has nothing to do with my not finding an owl over there.) The owl man takes me up and down the streets of his neighborhood the evening we meet. This is near the campus of the College of St. Thomas, along the Mississippi River. He points out dozens of trees where owls have sat, called, nested, rested, and generally hopped around. This is over a period of years, of course. I try to keep that in mind.

I walk around St. Paul, listening. I hear the slam of doors, loud music, loud television. I hear family arguments. I hear cars with jet-airplane exhaust systems. One night I

**John Gislason; Editor.*

think I maybe hear two screech-owl notes, but I am not sure. Another night, walking on the sidewalk along the river, I hear a sound from the Minneapolis side. It is either an owl or an automobile. I know, you wonder what kind of guy is this who can't tell an owl from a car. Well, when I see both an owl and a car I never confuse them. But in my hyped do-or-die condition that evening, already scared silly by a jogger who silently ran up from behind, then softly said hello as he passed me, I can't tell "hoo's" from shoes. I go home, owl-less one more time.

Weeks pass. I think about going back to St. Paul, but things come up. My daughter Jill in Elk River says there is an owl in the pine trees across from her house. She and Jon hear it calling.

"What does it sound like?" I ask, hopefully.

"It sounds sort of funny," she says. "Like an owl." Ornithology does not run deep in

this family.

I do my owl calls for her. First it's the big "hoo-hoo." No. I go for the "who-cooks-for-you." Negative. I swallow once, clear my throat, give her my screech-owl call.

"Yes," she says, smiling broadly, probably amazed at her father's knowledge of the wild world. "That's it."

Son-of-a-gun! Jude and I make plans to go to Elk River on the day after Halloween.

The rest is history. I am out there on our back deck on Halloween eve, prying my steak from the grill, when the little devil calls.

"It's a screech-owl," I shout to Jude. "In Henneberry's yard! Listen!"

The owl calls and calls. What a sweet song. It sounds a lot like I've always imagined a nightingale would sound when I've read about them in poems and stuff. Very special. And absolutely sweet. 13755 First Ave. N., Plymouth, MN 55441.



BOOK REVIEWS

WHERE HAVE ALL THE BIRDS GONE? ESSAYS ON THE BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION OF BIRDS THAT MIGRATE TO THE AMERICAN TROPICS by John Terborgh. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. 1989. xvi + 207 pp., 53 figures, 14 tables. \$45.00 cloth; \$14.95 paper (ISBN 0-691-02426-6).

This is an important book, and one of its nature has been needed for some time. That it should arrive under the authorship of Terborgh makes it well worth the wait. Dr. John Terborgh is a scientist of commanding stature, having made substantial professional contributions to a relatively diverse array of fields: primate, avian, and tropical forest biology/ecology. Formerly of Princeton Univer-

sity and now a member of the Department of Forestry at Duke University, Terborgh has been conducting research in the neo-, or new world tropics for over 20 years. This book is intended for a broad audience — "people who appreciate birds and care about them" — and focuses on the conservation of birds which breed in North America and winter south of the United States (approximately 250 species).

In spite of his scientific background, Terborgh writes with a clear and informative style, carefully balancing the presentation of information with the need to maintain the reader's interest. He presents a broad, even-handed review of the many aspects of nearctic migrant biology that must be understood if we are to determine the nature of the problems

migrant populations face. These problems are many: eastern deciduous forest fragmentation, supplementation of cowbird and jay populations through backyard feeders, wetland drainage, tropical deforestation, and more. Terborgh achieves laudable success in bringing to bear much of what we currently know about various aspects of the annual life cycles of migrants to search out the factors limiting the sizes of migrant populations. Although tropical habitat loss appears to be looming as the most important factor in the near future, most problems requiring attention exist within our own borders. These problems must be addressed, if only to set an international example of how we would like to see conservation efforts proceed.

The book is organized into 14 chapters, each of which forms a cohesive unit, allowing one to read it in discrete portions without losing one's place. I found it easy to read a chapter a day on the bus. Readers will appreciate the complex life cycles of migrant birds and the realities they face on their breeding and wintering grounds. Photographs provide a glimpse of some of the major wintering habitats of various species. In presenting the evidence he has marshalled to answer the question asked in the title, Terborgh does a good job of delineating the limits of these data, and makes pointed recommendations regarding the areas of importance and methodologies involved in future research. The amateur ornithologist is encouraged to play a strong role (pp. 15, 16, 154, 169-70, 184-186). Although dealing with problems extending over the length and breadth of the Western Hemisphere is a daunting challenge, it is nevertheless our mandate for the coming years if we are to prevent serious declines in the populations of many migrant species. Terborgh offers a "blue list" of 45 migrant species he feels are most threatened by tropical habitat alteration. I think he is conservative here, and that some additions could be made to this list (e.g. Wood Thrush, *Hylocichla mustelina*).

One recommendation Terborgh makes is that the annual Breeding Bird Census (BBC) results be published once again so that amateurs will continue to contribute to this important national database. Since this was written, the Association of Field Ornithologists and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have re-established the publication

of the BBC and the Winter Bird Population Study (WBPS) in an annual supplement to the *Journal of Field Ornithology*. Formerly titled *Bird-Banding*, this publication probably has the widest readership among amateur ornithologists of any of the major North American ornithological journals. Because this arena is one in which the amateur (yet knowledgeable) ornithologist can make immediate significant contributions, I encourage readers to consider undertaking the steps necessary to establish a long term Breeding Bird Census plot in a habitat type where such data would be welcome at the local and national levels. Experienced volunteers are needed in this effort, and organized groups are more likely to succeed in fulfilling the desired "long term" aspect of these census plots. Instructions, data forms (and some ideas of needed habitat coverage?) for the BBC and WBPS can be had by writing the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Bird Population Studies, 159 Sapsucker Woods, Ithaca, New York 14850.

Minor problems in the book, presumably of editorial origin (e.g. the inconsistent use of standard common names, the general lack of scientific names, no page numbers for pp. 116-136), do not detract unduly from the overall quality of my paper edition review copy. From the striking cover illustration of Bachman's Warbler by Audubon to the reproduction of the many photographs (black-and-white), tables, and graphics, the material is put together and presented in an excellent fashion. Good author and subject indices, together with a broad bibliography make it a valuable entry-level text for persons wishing to continue their study of this topic.

Some of the generalizations Terborgh makes will probably be censured by a few professional biologists, who will hold that all of the answers are not yet in which would allow us to make certain sweeping statements. Terborgh acknowledges this in Chapter 1, and wisely points out that waiting will not gain us anything. There are too many signs that things are going wrong to await the development of a complete picture before initiating conservation efforts few can deny are needed. A symposium entitled "Ecology and Conservation of Neotropical Landbirds" was recently held (7-9 December 1989) at Wood's Hole, Massachusetts, the first of its type in 12 years. This symposium prompted what was probably the largest gathering to

date of professionals working in this area (over 300 registered participants). Although composed primarily of research biologists, conservation was a very high priority concern among this group, and my impression was that the overall attitude was in strong agreement with what Terborgh presents in this book (which also formed the basis for his plenary lecture at this symposium). Individuals with research backgrounds in the tropics are nearly unanimous in their convictions that strong conservation measures are needed in the neotropics immediately. In fact, the term "war" was used without any visible dissent. This is strong stuff coming from scientists, who are, on balance, conservative when it comes to the implications of their data sets. Having spent a lot of time in the Mexican tropics working with migrants, I understand this feeling but I wish that this war had a single, visible enemy. The proceedings of this symposium, when published, will offer the serious student some of the most up-to-date details from the research facet of this subject.

Where Have All the Birds Gone? will inevitably be compared with Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (1962; Houghton Mifflin, Boston, Massachusetts). Although the warning nature of each work is a bond they have in common, the problems Terborgh reviews are broad and often ill-defined (for lack of complete data). In addition, they will require solutions more difficult than simply outlawing the use of a relatively small number of pesticides. This book may well become the most important single contribution of the 1980's to North American ornithology, and I hope that it sets the pace for research and conservation in the coming, critical decade.

In his final chapter, Terborgh offers his recommendations for a conservation agenda in the United States (pp. 183-186). These recommendations can probably serve with few if any modifications as a working conservation policy guide at the individual, local, and national levels. If you are even casually interested in birds or the current status of our environment, read this book. **Kevin Winker, Bell Museum of Natural History, 10 Church St., SE, Minneapolis, MN 55455.**

RAVENS IN WINTER by Bernd Heinrich. Illustrated (by the author). Summit Books, New York, NY. 379 pp. 1989. \$19.95.

You may think you couldn't read, and enjoy reading, over 300 pages about ravens. After all, what do ravens do besides say "Quork" (or "Nevermore") and dine on carcasses. Well here is a surprising book! It reads like a mystery story, and you are party to all the clues. It is also a great adventure story, at times leaving you wondering how the author survived to write about it. And for anyone who ever wondered what is involved in "doing field research," this book gives you a first-hand, well detailed account of what it takes to come up with even one small piece of new datum. Bernd Heinrich (also author of *One Man's Owl*) is a Professor of Zoology at the University of Vermont. For four gruelling winters he drove back and forth on weekends to his study site in Maine through weather conditions Minnesotans will recognize, and then had to snow-shoe up a 30° incline hauling several hundred pounds of dead meat to feed his study subjects to try to solve the mystery of why ravens seem to depart from the norm in animal survival by, apparently, helping one another find food. The book is basically a diary of his work, written as he goes about it. But being a scientist and a professor, he includes many pages of citations from the technical literature to give his reader a better basis for trying to guess the outcome of his experiments. You may have a hard time not skipping to the last chapter of the mystery story, where all the bits of new information he uncovered all fit together in a summary which solves the mystery. You may also find that you now know more about ravens than you ever dreamed there was to know; after all, the birds have figured in many cultures down through the ages yet relatively little has been written about them. But the best part of the book is probably the author himself. Perhaps the following quote from pages 220-221 will give you a flavor of the man:

"On the way back, we stop in Saint Johnsbury at the diner to mull over and digest events. We wonder how anyone could possibly be interested in the many mundane and often artificial things that seem to absorb so many people, when nature is *so exciting* and so available."

"We observe that the excitement is hard won; it requires a tremendous energy and persistence. You sometimes need to put in a lot of investment before you can appreciate the unique and interesting. We then try to justify

what we do by trying to make it sound as if it has some "useful" application. But, really, we *do* it because it is fun. Nature is entertainment — the greatest show on earth. And that is not trivial, because what is life, if it isn't fun? I think that the *greatest* contribution we could make would be to help make life more interesting."

I hope it will be all right with Professor Heinrich if I say, in summary, that this scholarly scientific book is great fun.

Anne Marie Plunkett, 2918 SW 15th Ave., Rochester, MN 55902.

WISCONSIN'S FAVORITE BIRD HAUNTS by Daryl D. Tessen. 3rd ed. Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Inc. 462 pp. 1989. WSO Supply Dept., 115 Meadowwood Dr., Randolph, WI 53956. \$20 + \$2 postage.

One of the standards by which to judge the value of a book that presents information about our ever-changing environment is to wait and see if it lasts into a second edition. *Wisconsin's Favorite Bird Haunts*, first published in 1961, is now in its third edition. Compiled and edited by Daryl Tessen, who probably travels more miles on the highways of Wisconsin in search of birds than any other birder, the book covers all 72 Wisconsin counties for the first time. Contained within its covers is a guide to 120 of Wisconsin's favorite locations for bird study. Each haunt is accompanied by a detailed map, an essential feature for a visitor trying to find one of the 900 areas described, areas that carry names such as "Jersey Flats," "Mecan Springs," "Three Lakes Bog," and "Blue Hills;" and others that are not found on standard highway maps.

Tessen has been able to cajole written descriptions of these areas from more than 100 birders, the names of which read like a "Who's Who" of Wisconsin birders. A new feature in this edition is the inclusion of almost 40 bird drawings by three of Wisconsin's finest artists, as well as front and back covers in color by Tom Schultz. Some may question binding a 462-page book as a paperback, since it will see a lot of wear-and-tear as it is tossed around inside a car, but the printer offers a high quality binding job that will outlast the rest of the book.

A Wisconsin life list follows the area accounts. There are 406 bird species listed, including 13 that are on the hypothetical list. The Wisconsin list has expanded by 18 species during the past decade.

A wonderfully thorough index to all the birds and locations complete this book. This 22-page section will undoubtedly be more valuable than a routine book index. For example, there are 146 main entries under the letter "S" alone.

While local and state bird-finding guides have been around for many years, the decade of the 80s saw the number and size of these increase dramatically. Several states now have complete coverage. At first glance, one thinks of their value only to birders but, upon deeper reflection, they are really guides to the best natural areas that are known in a region. Everyone has his favorite spots and agonizes at the demise of some of these with time. One of the values in producing a book like *Favorite Haunts* is the attention that is focused upon these natural areas. By recognizing and learning of their natural attributes, the citizens of an area will be able to identify threats, mobilize action, and better afford protection and encourage reasoned management for them. I hope that a 4th edition will document that the attention focused on these favorite bird haunts aided in their perpetuation and recognition as places that we all will be able to visit; places where we can enjoy the splendor of our birdlife for many years to come. **Noel J. Cutright, 3352 Knollwood, West Bend, WI 53095**

BLUEBIRDS IN THE UPPER MIDWEST A GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL TRAIL MANAGEMENT by Dorene Scriven. Bluebird Recovery Committee, Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis, P.O. Box 566, Minneapolis, MN 55458. 179 pages, illustrated, 51 in color. 1989. \$9.50 (\$1.50 p&h).

Minnesota birders have had a strong affinity for bluebirds for a long time. We learn in this book that Lawrence Zeleny, who founded the North American Bluebird Society and its journal, *Sialia*, in 1978, placed his first bluebird houses in 1918 at a site now occupied by Pioneer Hall, one of the University of Minnesota's dormitories. Dr. Zeleny's book

published in 1976, *The Bluebird — How You Can Help Its Fight For Survival*, carried a dedication to Olive, his wife whom he met in Dr. T.S. Roberts' ornithology class. Dr. Roberts began teaching ornithology in 1916, so the Zelenys were among his first students. The most recent developments in the Minnesota-bluebird connection are this book and the 1989 bluebird report compiled by the Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program in cooperation with the Bluebird Committee which shows that 489 cooperators checked their 11,192 bluebird houses and found that they had produced 15,879 young bluebirds this year. Carrol Henderson, supervisor of the Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program, indicates in the Foreword of the Scriven book that the recovery of the Eastern Bluebird, through application of the methods described so well in the book, is "a wonderful wildlife success story."

The book is the first book-length guide to bluebird management since Zeleny's in 1976, and its author had the advantage that in these last dozen years there has been a tremendous amount of experience by hundreds of bluebird enthusiasts which Scriven summarizes. She has done a masterly job of reviewing and condensing the reports from the many "bluebirders"; many of these were previously described in the quarterly *Sialia*, and others in the several bluebird conferences which Scriven has attended, but she also draws frequently on personal communications. Some of the most active serious studies of bluebird management have been conducted by Minnesotans, who are credited generously. The support of the Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program under Carrol Henderson's leadership is important. A higher percentage of Minnesotans contribute to this program through their donations on the income tax returns than in any other of the 35 states which now use this method.

The widespread love for bluebirds, among scientists as well as birders, is eloquently expressed in quotations from Dr. T.S. Roberts' *Birds of Minnesota* and Arthur Cleveland Bent's *Life Histories of North American Thrushes*. A good introduction to the natural history of the bluebird is followed by chapters on types of nest boxes, how to create a bluebird trail, the importance of monitoring the boxes to determine successes and failures, the competition for bluebird

boxes by other birds and mammals, the problem of predators and parasites, and foods, both natural and artificial. An extensive appendix contains a miscellany of practical information useful to those working with bluebirds. The 51 color photos are beautiful and informative — exceptionally well reproduced. The numerous black and white illustrations depict types of bluebird houses, how to place them, methods of excluding competitors and predators, trapping of House Sparrows, the foods of the bluebird, as well as other subjects.

Anyone beginning a bluebird trail will find the book essential; even those who have had years of experience with bluebirds will find it useful. The Bluebird Recovery Committee of the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis and the Minnesota DNR Nongame Wildlife Program are to be congratulated for such an excellent contribution to bluebird conservation. **Gustav A. Swanson, 1020 E. 17th St. #35, Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

EARLY AMERICAN WATERFOWLING 1700's-1930 by Stephen M. Miller. New Century Publishers, Inc. 279 pp. 1986.

Perhaps it is because I am a nostalgia freak, especially when it comes to waterfowl hunting: hunting ducks was one of my most enjoyable pastimes as a kid. I also hunt a great deal with a muzzleloader, also a nostalgia kick. Maybe it is because there is an 1858 picture of an American water spaniel on the dust cover: the best dog I ever owned out of many which have come and gone was a water spaniel. Or perhaps it was the article on "The Duck Passes of Minnesota's Shakopee." I have always had a fascination with historical accounts of wildlife that were encountered by the early explorers and settlers of Minnesota.

Whatever the reasons, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The basic premise was to have the author gather a collection of published art and literature pertaining to waterfowl from the 1700's through 1930. He accomplished this objective rather nicely. He includes articles on waterfowl from various sections of the country and gives a good account of nearly every species of duck, including the Labrador Duck which has long been extinct. A large section of articles is devoted

to the Atlantic tidewater area since this has the longest and richest waterfowl history in North America. Included in this section is "New Jersey Gunning at \$5 a Day." Obviously this is not for the Atlantic City crowd of today.

This is followed by a section entitled "In the West" which includes everything west of the Appalachians. Somehow I have never thought of Ohio as being "in the west."

The section on equipment has articles on blinds, boats and decoys, including decoy building instruction by Aldo Leopold. An appropriately named "End of an Era" section contains an article titled "The Passing of the Marshland" which is as true today as it was prophetic when written in 1915. It should be mandatory reading for every taxpayer who has been subsidizing agricultural surpluses since shortly after the date of this article.

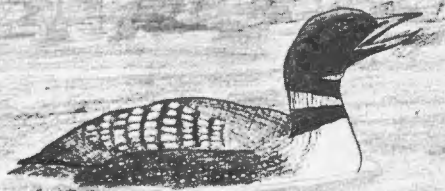
The final written section contains hints and hazards that everyone should heed such as "Fear of Indians," "Antidotes for Bite of Rattlesnake and Poisoning by Strychnine," and "Seining for Ducks by Aeroplane." Lest you should think it only contains warnings, it has hints like using cats for tolling (using a dog to entice ducks within shooting range) and a recipe for wild duck also by Aldo Leopold.

The last section contains many advertisements from early outdoors publications. Decoys, guns, boats, railroad and hunting club ads are included. Scattered throughout the book as fillers are black and white drawings, prints and photos from the period, as well as recent photos of equipment. There is also an eight-page color insert section which enhances the book. I found all of these illustrations to be extremely useful and interesting. However, the author was rather persistent with one black and white picture of a double-barrelled shotgun. I counted 13 different pages where it was used. This, however, is only a minor detraction from the overall appeal of this book!

MOU members should read this book, if for no other reason, for the article on "The Duck Passes of Minnesota's Shakopee." It provides an insight into what duck numbers must have been in what is now the Minnesota River Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I would highly recommend this book to anyone who has ever wished they could have been around in a little less hectic time before man had a chance to severely alter wildlife habitat and populations. It should give anyone pause to consider what we have wrought upon ourselves. **John Schladweiler, 111 N. Washington, New Ulm, MN 56073.**

Low Duck Populations

Breeding duck populations in prime nesting areas of the U.S. and Canada continued near record low numbers this spring, according to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Populations in surveyed areas were 8% lower than in 1988 and 24% lower than the 1955-88 average. The annual duck wing survey, which analyzes wings submitted by hunters, showed that there was an unusually low proportion of young in the 1988-89 hunting take, which was 50% lower than the take the previous year. The 1989 fall flight of ducks is expected to be smaller than that of last year, down two million. This is the second lowest flight index since projections began in 1969. Duck hunting regulations proposed by the FWS for the 1989-90 season generally remained the same as last year's. However, shooting will be permitted to start a half hour earlier. Hunting of Canvasbacks will be permitted in the Pacific Flyway; the season was closed for that species nationwide last year. Regulations for some goose hunting seasons were more liberal than last year.



NOTES OF INTEREST

MINNESOTA'S FIRST BLACK-NECKED STILT — A Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) was observed on 24 and 25 April 1989, on the Roseau River Wildlife Management Area, Roseau County. The lone bird was utilizing open dike shoreline habitat in the southwest corner of pool number one. The observations were made from a vehicle at a distance of approximately fifty feet with the aid of a Bushnell spotting scope equipped with a 16-36 power zoom eyepiece. The observer had previously observed Black-necked Stilts at Cheyenne Bottoms Wildlife Area in central Kansas. **Stan Wood, Wildlife Area Manager, Roseau River Wildlife Management Area, HCR 5, Box 103, Roseau, MN 56751.**

My observation of the Black-necked Stilt occurred on 23 April, 1989, at approximately 3:30 p.m. along a wetlands dike shoreline. I remained in the pick-up truck and observed the bird for approximately five minutes at a distance of 50-75 feet. I have observed Black-necked Stilts before on Welder Wildlife Refuge near Corpus Christi, TX, and also consulted Robbin's *Guide to Birds of North America* to be sure. It was a completely sunny day with moderate winds. I was not aware at the time that this was an unusual observance of the species. **Thomas Provost, Roseau River Wildlife Management Area, HCR 5, Box 103, Roseau, MN 56751.**

Editor's Note: While the above notes do not contain an actual description of the individual bird observed, due to the efforts of members of the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee (MORC), a brief verbal description of this distinctive species was obtained. Based on this, MORC accepted this record as the first record for the state. The second observation of a Black-necked Stilt in the state took place in Stevens County during mid-July 1989 (*The Loon* 61:139-140).

A FALL RECORD FOR WESTERN Tanager IN DULUTH — The status of Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*) in Minnesota as a casual spring migrant has been challenged by only two occurrences, both considered summer records: on 28 June 1971 and 9 August 1977. A Western/Scarlet Tanager hybrid was also collected on 17 August 1950 in Anoka County. (1.) The species is considered a casual vagrant in our region east of the Dakotas and the province of Saskatchewan, where it is an uncommon transient or vagrant during migration. (2.) It is considered common during the summer in suitable habitat in the Black Hills region of South Dakota, where fall migration generally occurs during the first three weeks of September. (3.) Three of North Dakota's 13+ records for the species are in the fall, on 30 August 1968 (banded in Kenmare) and on 3 September 1985 in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. (4.) Of special interest is a fall record for North Dakota of a bird described as a female on 17 September 1989 (fide Gordon Berkey), only one day later than the Duluth sighting documented below. The Duluth bird was discovered approximately one half hour after sunrise on 16 September 1989 at Indian Point, just west of the campground. Favorable winds were producing active migration in the early morning, including several Scarlet Tanagers (*P. olivacea*). Viewing conditions were excellent under clear skies, with the sun at the observer's back during the initial observation, and over the observer's left shoulder during the second observation, when photographs were taken. The early morning sunlight may have intensified the brightness of the lower mandible and the yellowish hue of the underparts. The bird was located by its distinctive call and initially observed from a distance of approximately 40 feet for one minute, as it perched in a birch tree about 12 feet above the ground. It then began slowly moving about until it was flushed by the arrival of a dog. The bird flew about 50 yards away but could still be heard calling from a clump of trees near the Waterfront Trail. Before it could be located visually, two more dogs arrived and the bird flew back toward the campgrounds, where it continued to call at an average rate of 30 times per minute. The birds then flew into a clump of poplar trees and perched near a Scarlet Tanager, permitting direct comparison and photography. The call was recorded on a hand-held microcassette recorder which was also used to record a description while the bird was under observation. The description was recorded prior to consultation with any field guides. Despite an additional hour of searching by the original observer and subsequent efforts by others who were attending the annual MOU Hawk Ridge Weekend, the bird was not seen or heard after approximately 0730 on 16 September 1989.

The bird was described as a tanager, with body not as slim as Scarlet Tanager. The bill was conical, not sharply pointed and typical for tanagers. The lower mandible appeared brighter yellowish-flesh than the upper mandible. The head and nape were lime green; no streaking was noted and no reddish-orange was seen on the face. There was contrast between the nape and the upper back, which was greyish-olive and unstreaked. The wings were similar in color to the upper back, with two relatively thick wingbars. The upper wingbar was yellowish and about half the length of the lower whitish wingbar. The rump was lime green, similar to the nape, and shaded lighter towards the upper part of the rump. The rectrices were described as greenish-olive. The underparts were overall slightly lighter than the nape color, with a more yellowish-green hue. The undertail coverts were not well seen and the leg color was not noted. One of the Scarlet Tanagers present in the campground had a thin, ill-defined whitish line of dots formed by the tips of the secondary coverts. First year Scarlet Tanagers may show wingbars in the fall (5.) but the combination of two thick wingbars, greyish-olive back, and distinct contrast between the back and nape on the Duluth bird supports its identification as a Western Tanager showing the field marks of a female. The call was reminiscent of the Summer Tanager's dull, dispirited, vocalization which is usually characterized by three syllables. The call of the Duluth bird was described at the time of the observation as "a rapid burst of three notes, with the last note occasionally slurred upward and staccato in character... uki-ti-kick." Further discussion of the identification of female tanagers, along with written descriptions of their calls, can be found in the recent article by Kenn Kaufman. The author thanks Kim Eckert for reviewing an earlier draft of this manuscript, and Gordon Berkey for providing details of his recent sighting in North Dakota (*American Birds* 42:1, pp. 3-5).

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Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHERS IN ST. LOUIS COUNTY — Blue-gray Gnatcatchers captured the imagination of many observers during 1989. There were more northward reports than usual on the MOU Minnesota Bird Report and the fourth state record for North Dakota was along the Red River in Fargo on 16-17 May 1989 (*American Birds*, Vol. 43, page 498). On the same foggy, overcast afternoon that warblers, a Yellow-throated Vireo and numerous other migrants were seen on Park Point, I was startled by a familiar buzzy, two-note call which was "wheezy" in character and identified it as a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The bird was located in a sparse clump of saplings near the ruins of the old lighthouse on 21 September 1989. The lighting was not sufficient for photography due to the weather conditions at approximately 1800 and the total time of visual observation was only seven seconds from less than 25 feet. However, there was no foliage to obscure the view as the bird actively flitted about bare branches. Details were recorded on tape. A thin, dark needle-like bill was noted along with a thin, whitish eye ring. The head was mostly greyish with the throat becoming lighter grey. The wings were described as "greyish brown" on the tape. The underparts were recorded as "buffy white," my term for very pale grey. The long, narrow tail was nearly as long as the body. It was slightly notched and blackish above with white outer tail feathers. The bird also gave a wheezy, single call note, but most of the vocalizations were the buzzy, two-note variety. One of the very few previous records for St. Louis County on 27 October 1982 was also the latest date for the state (see Janssen, *Birds in Minnesota*, 1987). **Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

LATE BLACKPOLL WARBLER IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — At about 11:45 a.m. on 2 November 1989, Jim Pomplun and I saw a Blackpoll Warbler at Wood Lake Nature Center in Richfield, Hennepin County. Our attention was drawn to the warbler when we heard some sharp chips coming from a group of birds, mostly chickadees and Golden-crowned Kinglets, that we'd "pished" into close range. We studied the warbler with 7X binoculars for several minutes from as close as twelve feet. The bird was quite plain, dull greenish above the two white wingbars, pure white below except for a yellowish throat and upper breast. Its face, also yellow, with some brownish through the eye, was without bold markings. Taking the late date into consideration, I initially thought we were looking at a Pine Warbler. Blackpolls are usually streaked below in fall plumage. Bay-breasted Warblers have buff-cream undertail coverts, and generally show some bay, or at least buff, on the flanks. Upon further observation, two features convinced us that, although there was no apparent streaking on the underparts, the bird was actually a Blackpoll Warbler. First, the legs and feet were pink, the feet a shade dusker. Second, when the bird tipped toward us, we both had a brief but clear look at the distinct dark streaking on the greenish back. The back streaking alone was enough to eliminate Pine Warbler as a possibility. The pink legs and feet, together with the snowy white undertail coverts, eliminated Bay-breasted Warbler. This is the first record of a November sighting for this species in Minnesota, the previous late date being 25 October. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

SMITH'S LONGSPURS AND PRAIRIE FALCONS IN WESTERN MINNESOTA —
On 21 October 1989, while co-leading an M.O.U. weekend, Kim Eckert and I took a group to the Rothsay Wildlife Management Area in Wilkin County to look for longspurs and other western Minnesota species. This has traditionally been the most reliable place in the state to find the rare and regular but enigmatic Smith's Longspur. Our hopes were buoyed by the fact that Peder Svingen and I had seen several dozen Smith's in among the flocks of Laplands on a brief stop at Felton Prairie in Clay County the day before. Arriving at a spot about four miles west of the town of Rothsay and a mile and a half north of Wilkin County Road 26, we spotted a falcon sitting on a fencepost several hundred yards off the road. We gathered up our scopes and began to hike across the grassy expanses in order to get a better angle on the bird. Almost as soon as we got out of our cars, we could hear and see flocks of longspurs flying around over the grass and wheeling about over our heads. As we listened, Kim proclaimed excitedly, "Listen... Smith's! Smith's Longspurs!" The birds quickly flew out of ear- and eye-shot. We continued on and encountered more and more longspurs as we moved through the short grass. As we listened to them we began to realize that almost all of the birds we were hearing were Smith's. The rattle call, while similar to the rattle of the Lapland Longspur, was noticeably slower and drier, more "metallic" sounding. Meanwhile we stalked the falcon. At a distance of a couple hundred yards, we stopped and set up scopes. As we watched, the falcon took off and flew around for a minute before disappearing from view. Although a good distance away, we had good enough looks at it to identify it as a Prairie Falcon. After it flew out of sight, we realized that there was a second falcon sitting on a post in the same general area. This too we identified as a Prairie Falcon. We moved on, hoping to get closer, but as we continued, the bird flew off while we weren't looking and disappeared. Working along a barbed wire fence, we began to see longspurs landing on the fence ahead of and behind us. While the buffy underparts and the white "shoulders" of the Smith's were often visible as they were flying low overhead, we hadn't really had good looks at the birds. However, we soon had several Smith's Longspurs in the scope as they perched on the barbed wire near us. A few minutes later, we had our scopes set up near a stock pond watching the birds as they came in to drink. From the corner of my eye, I caught a dark shape flying very fast and low in from behind us and to our left. I yelled "Prairie Falcon!" just as the bird cut through the air not three feet off the ground and fifty feet to our side. It flew over the pond, scattering the longspurs, before cutting in front of us and pulling up to hover, giving us a fabulous look at the brown back and wings and the dark axillars and wing linings before it leisurely flew off and out of view. We spent the balance of the morning enjoying very good looks at very cooperative Smith's Longspurs, a bird not known for its cooperation. A conservative estimate of the number of longspurs in the fields immediately adjacent to us was about 500, about 400 of these being Smith's. While scanning the fields nearby, however, we saw thousands more longspurs, none of which were close enough to identify as to species. Most of the flocks we were close enough to see well were pure Smith's to the best of our knowledge. That same day, the 21st, Kim Risen, Warren Nelson, and Steve and Josephine Blanich journeyed to the Felton Prairie area. In a stretch from one to three miles north of Clay County Road 26, they encountered large numbers of longspurs, a majority of which were Smith's. Also they had a Prairie Falcon which they even watched snatch a Snow Bunting out of the air and proceed to sit out in a nearby field and eat it. Estimates made there that day were of 500 longspurs, 400 of which were Smith's. As was the case at Rothsay, there were thousands more longspurs present, but they couldn't be identified because of the distance from the observers. Later that day, their group saw a second Prairie Falcon off Highway 39 near Borup in Norman County. Conditions for observation that day were almost perfect with lots of sunshine and virtually no wind. While observations of such large numbers of Smith's Longspurs are unusual, they are by no means unheard of. On 29 October 1981, an estimated 1,000 Smith's Longspurs were seen in Stevens County (*The Loon* 54:59-60), and on 15 October 1977, an estimated 300 Smith's were seen at Rothsay W.M.A. (*The Loon* 49:241-242). **Parker Backstrom, 5420 Mt. Normandale Drive, Bloomington, MN 55437.**

LONGSPUR EXTRAVAGANZA AT THE FELTON PRAIRIE — A small group of Chestnut-collared Longspurs (eight to ten individuals) was located at the Felton Prairie, Clay County, on 27 September 1989. One individual was seen on the ground from a distance of 15 feet and the faint, rosy brown lower nape was clearly visible. The rufous infusion to the secondaries that characterizes Lapland Longspurs in basic plumage was specifically looked for and its absence noted. Some of these longspurs showed white "scapular bars." A clear, two note call was heard during flight. Listening to the call and studying the white scapular bar prepared me for subsequent longspur sightings, and immature Horned Larks were also available for comparison. During the late afternoon of 11 October 1989, two or three longspurs were located which gave a three or four note rattling flight call described on tape as "dit-dit-dit-dit." The call was very similar to a Lapland Longspur, but without any interspersed musical notes. After nearly an hour of stalking them with frustrating results, I positioned my car near a muddy pond and eventually recorded a description of a Smith's Longspur as seen through a spotting scope. All but two of the longspurs that drank at the pond were Laplands and no Chestnut-collared Longspurs were identified. The Smith's Longspurs were "very buffy below compared to the whitish belly of the Lapland Longspur" and there were medium brown streaks across the breast and down the flanks. The throat was lighter buff and lightly streaked on its lower portion with a faint whisker mark at the sides of the throat. A triangular brownish face pattern was reminiscent of Lapland Longspur's face pattern but the head was mostly buffy with a distinct, creamy eye stripe. A very thin, whitish eye ring was noted. Below the white "scapular bar" was a row of dark brown coverts with contrasting light edges. There was dramatic contrast during flight between the buffy underparts and the light or whitish underwings. The undertail coverts were a similar buff color and although the white outer rectrices contrasting with the dark brown inner tail feathers were described, this field mark was difficult to see well and not particularly useful for distinguishing between the longspurs present. The longspur extravaganza concluded on 20 October 1989 when Parker Backstrom returned with me to the Felton Prairie. At least one third of the several hundred longspurs present were Smith's. Once again, the rattling call notes of the Smith's Longspurs seemed virtually indistinguishable from the Lapland Longspurs as they called overhead. The Smith's Longspurs were aggressively chasing one another and gave a buzzy call note which reminded me of the second syllable in the Alder Flycatcher's song. After all available film was used to record unidentifiable images of longspurs in flight, we returned to the car, and birds began lining up on the barbed wire fence for an encore. A side-by-side comparison dramatized the slimmer body and more pointed, slimmer bill of the Smith's Longspur. **Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

AN IBIS IN MARSHALL COUNTY — Just after 4:00 p.m. on 12 September 1989, I was driving west on Marshall County Road 6 approaching Gatzke. Less than one-tenth of a mile east of the edge of town, I had slowed to about 20 miles per hour. Glancing at the ditch on my right, I saw a "black" long-legged, long-billed bird. Familiar with White-faced Ibis from residing in California, Colorado and Montana, and having seen Glossy Ibis on visits to the southeast, I knew it was an ibis. I turned around at the edge of town, drove back and stopped on the south shoulder opposite the bird. I watched briefly; the bird then flew a few yards east and landed again in the north ditch. I drove beyond it, turned and went back and again stopped alongside it on the north shoulder, only several feet away and with an unobscured view. I studied it several minutes at this range with a 7x26 binocular. The plumage was totally dark brownish with a sheen of greenish on the wings. The eyes were dark brown; all base parts (feet, legs, bill and lores) were uniform black. No hint of reddish was present in the facial area. There was an arcing "line" of white over the crown between the eyes, the top of the arc pointed toward the nape. The white was a mere flecking, not at all a solid line. I settled for ibis "unspecified," though I presume a likely White-faced. **Jay Hamernick, 5894 Kitkerry Ct. N., Shoreview, MN 55126.**

HARLEQUIN DUCKS DISCOVER CATTLE EGRETS AT GRAND MARAIS —

Shortly after noon on 14 October 1989, while stalking two Harlequin Ducks with a camera along the rocks just east of the power plant in Grand Marais, a flock of ten Cattle Egrets was flushed from the breakwater near the entrance to the harbor. Since the birds were apparently roosting on a rocky ledge which was only visible from a boat on the lake, they probably would have been overlooked by us and other observers who independently found them later that same afternoon. My attempts to get closer to the ducks meant scrambling out on the outermost rocks of the breakwater, and full credit for the discovery of the egrets goes to the ducks. The flock circled around the harbor several times and a series of photographs were taken in flight at f11, 1/500 second, on Kodachrome 200 film. The group finally alighted on the concrete portion of the breakwater which formed the eastern entrance to the harbor. We observed them through a spotting scope with the light over our right shoulders on a sunny day and recorded on tape the details of our sighting. The birds had a hunched, "neckless" posture and were small heron-like birds. The yellow egret bill stuck out from the head at a slightly upward angle, like that of a Cape May Warbler. At least one individual had a cinnamon or reddish-brown wash on the forecrown feathers but the plumage was otherwise white. The iris was yellow but the lores were not described. The legs were described in flight as dull grey, suggesting that immatures may have been present. The lack of contrast between leg and feet color was specifically noted. After a short period of time on the breakwater, the flock of ten again took flight and circled the harbor, then flew directly overhead and continued west. We watched them fly nearly out of binocular range toward Good Harbor Bay. It appeared that they were headed for Duluth and we joked about meeting them there. The flock then turned and headed back toward us. They landed on the rocks directly south of the power plant and we withdrew, hoping they would remain in the area. We called in our sighting to the Duluth Hotline and returned to the harbor later that afternoon. The egrets were independently found and identified by Kim Risen and Walter Popp but were apparently not present thereafter. **Peder Svingen and Sue Barton, 151 Bedford St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

EVIDENCE OF SENSE OF SMELL IN WOOD DUCKS — Several Wood Duck researchers with extensive experience have observed activities at the nest boxes that strongly suggest a well developed sense of smell in these birds. The following observations support these suspicions. During egg laying, the male Wood Duck usually accompanies the female to the nest box and waits until she has laid an egg, then leaves with her. During incubation, the male often accompanies the female to the nest box but leaves as the female enters the box to continue incubating. An incubating female usually leaves the nest to feed either once or twice during the day. With no unusual disturbances in the vicinity of the house, she will return directly to the nest and enter without hesitation. In the late afternoon of 3 May 1989, while watching from the house, I saw a duck leave one of my houses to feed. During its absence, I investigated the nest and eggs and carefully replaced the down over the eggs. At 7:28 p.m., the pair returned and the female alighted momentarily at the nest opening, looked into the nest and immediately flew away. After 45 minutes the pair flew toward the house. The female did not alight but circled ten to fifteen feet away from the box and left. Eighteen minutes later the pair flew in; the female looked into the box and again left. Two minutes later the pair alighted 20 to 30 feet beyond the box. The female then flew to several perches nearer the box before finally flying to the nest opening and entering. On the following day, she left the nest and, without my investigating the nest, she entered without hesitation. The following experiments give further evidence of this phenomenon. On 24 May 1989, a female Wood Duck left the nest at 4:50 p.m. Then, wearing rubber gloves, I investigated the nest, checked the eggs, and returned the down over the eggs. Upon returning, the female entered the nest without hesitation. The following day, without rubber gloves, I checked the nest after the female had left the nest normally. The young were hatched, but I did not touch the down or the young. When the female returned a half hour later, she looked into the nest and flew to a limb ten feet away and waited about five minutes before entering the nest. On 4

June, I checked the eggs at a second nest box while the female was absent. Upon returning she looked into the entrance and flew away immediately. After six minutes she returned, but did not enter the box. Three minutes later she returned and entered normally. On 7 June, I checked this nest again while wearing rubber gloves. I picked up the eggs to see if they showed evidence of hatching, replaced them carefully and adjusted the down. A half-hour later, the female came in and entered the nest box without hesitation. These observations appear to justify my suspicions that the ducks can detect human odor which disturbs their return to the nest after the eggs had been handled. **W.J. Breckenridge, 8840 West River Road North, Minneapolis, MN 55404.**

SCISSOR-TAILED FLYCATCHER IN DULUTH — The culmination of a good day of birding Minnesota Point in Duluth, St. Louis County was the discovery of an apparent male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on 22 May 1988. The bird was perched on the bare branch of a sapling approximately twenty feet off the ground when first discovered at about 1400. It was a hundred yards or so from the end of Minnesota Point. Unfortunately, the only hikers encountered all day approached from behind me and flushed the bird within one minute of my discovery. Incredibly, the couple took no notice of such a striking bird, even when it flew off toward the point with its tail streamers undulating! Two hasty photographs were taken and submitted to the MOU. The following description was recorded on a microcassette recorder at the time of the observation, prior to field guide consultation. The head, nape, neck, and upper breast were all pale gray. The wings had very faint wing bars formed by the edges of the coverts. The wings otherwise appeared dark brownish with a pinkish flash of the wing linings seen in flight. A rose colored flank wash was noted while perched and the tail streamers were longer than the entire length of the body. The streamers appeared to flash whitish along the mid-shaft portion of the otherwise dark rectrices. The bird landed in a small bare shrub overlooking the Superior entry and another photograph was taken from afar. It flew across to Wisconsin Point soon afterwards. The sighting was called in to Kim Eckert who informed me that a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen on Wisconsin Point during the week and was still there in the late morning of 22 May 1988. I don't know if there were subsequent Wisconsin reports. **Peder Svingen, 151 Bedford St. S.E., Minneapolis, MN 55414.**



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, 22 May 1988, Minnesota Point, St. Louis County. Photo by Peder Svingen.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW SEEN IN MIGRATION — The morning of 30 September 1989 was warm and clear at Fort Snelling State Park, Dakota County. I decided to go off the hiking trail and see what the east shore of Gun Club Lake (south of Interstate 494) was like. The walk to the lake, about a ¼ mile, was through tall grass and brush and no easy hike. As I approached the lake, it became very wet and boggy. With the sun at my back about 25 yards from the edge of the lake, a sparrow came out of the high grass near the lakeshore. I immediately noted the bright buffy orange eyebrow and breast and thought of LeConte's Sparrow which I had seen a few times this summer in northeast Minnesota. I knew that LeConte's had a white stripe on the crown and looked for that on this bird. I "pished" a few times and the bird came closer, to about 15 yards. It hopped around in the grass, giving me a chance to see it well from back, front, and sides. I noted its brown crown with a gray stripe down the center, gray nape, brown back with white stripes, and white belly. The breast and sides had dark streaks which were indistinct on the breast. I suspected a Sharp-tailed Sparrow and checked my Peterson field guide. This guide does not mention the gray crown stripe but all other marks checked. I confirmed the identification by checking the National Geographic field guide later at home. **Reggie Carlson, 237 12th Ave. N., Hopkins, MN 55343.**

Editor's Note: The Sharp-tailed Sparrow is a rare summer resident in Minnesota, found only in scattered localities across the northern part of the state from Aitkin County in the east and Clay County in the west, north to Kittson County. The migration routes of this species across the state are ill-defined because the bird is seldom seen during migration. In recent years however, migration records from the eastern part of the state in the fall have been increasing.

TWO IMMATURE BRANT AT AGASSIZ NWR — Ray Glassel and I had just met Alan Bennett, the new refuge manager at Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge, Marshall County, at the refuge headquarters on 14 October 1989. Mr. Bennett told us that since coming to the refuge a few weeks before, he had seen two very interesting species, a Smith's Longspur and two Brant that were keeping company with a flock of Canada Geese in a closed portion of the refuge. Mr. Bennett kindly offered to take us to see the birds. He had first seen them on 9 October. We went out on the refuge and located the flock of approximately 150 Canada Geese feeding in a stubble grain field. After approximately ten minutes, Mr. Bennett located the two birds through his scope. Ray and I had been unable to locate them. The birds were obvious once they were located. They were a little larger than a Mallard (there were a few Mallards in with the geese for direct comparison), and unquestionably smaller than the Canada Geese. They had black heads, neck and breast, no white marks on their neck as in adults. The back was also dark, but not as dark as the head and neck. The belly and flanks were a dirty white, the undertail coverts white, upper tail white, legs dark. We did not see them fly during the half hour we watched them. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd. #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

YELLOW RAIL IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — On 3 October 1989, I was checking the water levels of Southwest Marsh in Murphy-Hanrehan Park Reserve. While walking along an adjacent horse trail, I noticed a small dead bird on the trail. The trail is approximately 50 yards from the marsh. The surrounding vegetation was old field, dominated by brome grass. Upon closer examination, I realized I was holding a recently killed (the eyes were still full and shiny) Yellow Rail. The rail had a broken leg. The only explanation for the location of the bird was that it had been stepped on by a horse! There was fresh horse sign on the trail. When I brought the rail to the J.F. Bell Museum, Bud Tordoff informed me that it was a young of the year. **John Moriarty, Wildlife Specialist, Hennepin Parks, 3800 County Road 24, Maple Plain, MN 55359.**

ANOTHER PARTIAL ALBINO CHICKADEE — During the first week of October 1989, we repeatedly had visits from this unusually plumaged Black-capped Chickadee. It appeared to be socially attached to a small band of normal birds and we noted no unusual treatment of this bird by the other members of the group. My guess is that we have two groups of chickadees visiting our feeders at different times of day. We, of course, hoped that this abnormal bird was going to be a regular visitor during the coming winter, but it failed to reappear after about a week. **W.J. Breckenridge, 8840 West River Road North, Minneapolis, MN 55444.**



Partial albino Black-capped Chickadee. Photo by W.J. Breckenridge.

TWO IMMATURE ROSS' GEESE SEEN IN BECKER COUNTY — On 13 October 1989, Ray Glassel and I were birding our way north through Becker County. In the north-central part of the county, at a small lake named Cucumber Lake, we saw a large mixed flock of Snow Geese, Canada Geese and Mallards. There were approximately 125 birds present. We decided to stop and examine the flock with our scopes. The birds were approximately 100 yards west of the road we were on. The skies were clear with the sun almost directly behind us. While looking at the flock, I spotted two very small geese. The two birds were just slightly larger than the nearby Mallards and considerably smaller than the Snow Geese by direct comparison. The bills were very small on the two birds, much smaller than the Snows'. There was no grinning patch noted and where the bill joined the head it was more or less a straight vertical line, not curved as on the Snow Geese. The bill was dark, a mottled gray. We watched the birds carefully and at length to make sure of this characteristic. The two Ross' Geese were immatures, a rather pale white plumage over the whole body with the exception of the black wing tips. The two birds were seen only in the water, swimming about during the 20 minutes of observation. **Robert B. Janssen, 10521 S. Cedar Lake Rd. #212, Minnetonka, MN 55343.**

NESTING WOOD THRUSH IN LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY — In the afternoon of 4 June 1989, I returned to Lac Qui Parle State Park to try to observe the Kentucky Warbler that Chuck and I had seen earlier that morning. Kim Risen had also arrived to join in the quest. While we were waiting, we observed a Wood Thrush land at a nest in the fork of a box elder tree. The nest, made of twigs, dead leaves, and grasses, was located approximately seven to eight feet above the ground. Inside the nest were two recently hatched young (about ½ grown) and two bluish-green eggs. The parent birds would return to the nest every few minutes to feed the hatchlings. I returned the following day (5 June) and found another young bird had hatched. The total young in the nest now numbered three with one egg left. On 9 June, I returned to the nest site and found four nestlings, nearly to the fledgling stage. Those that were the first to hatch were perched on the rim of the nest. The parent birds continued to return to the nest to feed their hungry brood. By 12 June, the first young to hatch were out of the nest and the last two were now fledglings. To my knowledge this is the first confirmed Wood Thrush nesting in Lac Qui Parle County, though recent summer observations have occurred. **Micki Buer, Rt. 2, Box 165, Dawson, MN 56232.**

A VERY LATE EMPIDONAX FLYCATCHER — Shortly after noon on 2 November 1989, Jim Pomplun and I spotted a small flycatcher perched just above the ground in the northwest corner of Wood Lake Nature Center, Richfield, Hennepin County. The location was only a few hundred yards from where, about twenty minutes earlier, we had seen a Blackpoll Warbler (see separate note). We watched the flycatcher with our 7X binoculars for about five minutes from distances of 20 to 35 yards. With its small size and upright posture, its narrow bill, greenish-gray upperparts, white eye ring and wingbars, there was never any doubt that this was an *Empidonax* flycatcher. We noted the following during the course of the observation. In direct sunlight the back was greenish, otherwise the upperparts were dull greenish-gray. The underparts were grayish-white, a bit lighter at the throat. Except in the green on the back, we saw no yellowish tones in the plumage. There was a complete, distinct white eye ring and two whitish wingbars. From straight on, the bill appeared dusky, but the lower mandible was mostly orangish. The bird looked noticeably smaller than a Willow Flycatcher. It occasionally flicked its tail upward. Jim was the only one to hear any vocalizations. He said only that the call note, which he heard twice, was typical of the *Empidonax* calls in our area. Although this description of the bird is by no means exhaustive, we think there is a good reason to consider this a Least Flycatcher. The overall coloration was wrong for a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. Willow Flycatchers, besides being larger, don't have really distinctive eye rings. Alder Flycatchers also tend to have incomplete and indistinct eye rings. Acadian Flycatchers may have complete eye rings, but my experience is that theirs too are much less conspicuous than this bird's. Also, Acadians should have buffy wingbars in the fall. The call notes of the Alder and the Acadian sound different from those of the more common empids in the Twin Cities area. In addition to these considerations, the date of the sighting makes Least Flycatcher the best candidate among the eastern *Empidonax*. According to the entry in *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, Vol. 2, p. 260, the Least "is the only one likely to be found anywhere except the Gulf Coast after early October." Fall migration dates in Janssen's *Birds in Minnesota* show that in this state the Least is the only empid whose migration routinely extends into early October. Acadian Flycatcher has never been recorded after late August, and there is only one late September date given for the Alder Flycatcher. The latest date for the Least Flycatcher is 13 October. It may be worth noting that high temperatures in the Twin Cities were consistently between 60° to 80° from 21-28 October 1989. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

Editor's Note: While this was most likely a Least Flycatcher, it is necessary to consider one of the western species, such as Dusky or Hammond's Flycatcher, especially in view of the very late date.

HOUSE FINCH NESTING IN RICE COUNTY — Minnesota's first House Finch nest was found in Winona on 19 May 1989, and reported by Robert B. Janssen in *The Loon*, 61:93. The second nesting record for the state was here in Rice County. On 4 June 1989, Mary Milbert found the nest of the House Finch on the railing of their upstairs porch. Dan Milbert photographed the nest which contained eggs. The birds were seen at close range and easily identified. The third nesting record for the state was also here in Rice County. On 5 June 1989, Keith Radel found a nest of the House Finch in a hanging basket of begonias suspended from the ceiling of the front porch of a home on the east side of Faribault. This nest had five eggs and was well photographed by Keith, by Forest Strnad and by Orwin Rustad. The pair of House Finches was easily identified as they flew from the vicinity of the nest to the porch roof and to the nearby utility lines. The five young were banded on 18 June 1989. Reprinted from the Rice County Bird Club Newsletter, September 1989.



House Finch nest, June 1989, Faribault, Rice County. Photo by Forest Strnad.

AN ICELAND GULL IN HENNEPIN COUNTY — It was sunny and unseasonable 55° when my wife Teri and I drove into the parking lot on the north side of Lake Calhoun, Minneapolis at about 2:30 p.m. on 19 November 1989. Hundreds of people were walking around the lake, some on the beach in front of us, and a wind surfer was just off shore. Our expectations were decidedly low as we walked toward the shoreline to look over a group of

about 50 gulls. But as we neared this group, I spotted a first-winter white-winged gull. Because it was smaller than the Herring Gull swimming beside it, I thought it was probably an Iceland Gull. As we watched, this gull swam toward shore and walked onto the beach, where it stood next to a first-winter Herring Gull and a number of Ring-billed Gulls. We slowly approached to within twenty yards of the bird. The sun was over our right shoulders as we spent the next twenty minutes watching the gull with 7X binoculars and a 20-45X spotting scope. It was larger than the Ring-billed Gulls and a little smaller than the Herring. The head was slighter and more rounded than the Herrings', giving the bird a pigeon-headed look. Its plumage was lighter than first-winter Herrings'. The upperparts were buffy-white with brownish mottling. The underparts were a more uniform buffy color. Both the undertail-coverts and the uppertail-coverts were whitish, barred with brown. There was brownish speckling on the white tail, but no semblance of a tail band. The primaries, which extended far beyond the tail, were whitish, the palest part of the wings. Seen side by side, the bill of the Iceland was considerably shorter and slimmer than the Herrings'. It was black except for the basal third of the lower mandible, which was somewhat lighter. The eyes were dark brown and the legs dull pink. We left the beach to make some phone calls to area birders. When we returned the Iceland Gull was gone. Don and Al Bolduc relocated the gull at nearby Lake of the Isles shortly before 4:00 p.m., and confirmed our identification. Teri and I saw it again at about 4:30 p.m., resting on the ice at Lake of the Isles. I saw an Iceland Gull in this same plumage at Lake Calhoun on 8 December 1986 (*The Loon* 59:55). Glaucous and Thayer's Gulls have been seen regularly on Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet during the past five years. The best time to look for these gulls is the early morning or late afternoon, from late November to early December, when gatherings of hundreds to thousands of gulls are common. **Steve Carlson, 2705 Dupont Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55408.**

A WEEKEND OF SEA DUCKS — The October 1989 MOU Weekend in Duluth and along the north shore of Lake Superior was fully reserved, so we drove to Cook County and relocated three female or immature Surf Scoters on 14 October 1989, which were first reported by Mike Hendrickson earlier in the week. Our recorded description noted the long, dark, spatulate scoter bill which was thick at the base. The head was flat and the subtle "cap" effect was formed by darker brown feathers which draped onto the nape. There was a whitish spot in front of the eye. The birds were overall dark brown, becoming lighter brown on the lower breast, and there were no discernible marks on the wings. The dark brown rectrices appeared like spikes as the tail feathers were spread just before each dive. Our next stop was the Grand Marais harbor just before lunch. A female or immature plumaged Harlequin Duck spotted us as soon as we climbed onto the rocks just east of the power plant and flew off towards Artist's Point. Two more Harlequin Ducks were soon located along the rocks to the west of the initial observation and a description was recorded in addition to photographs at f11, 1/500 second, on Kodachrome 200 film. The head shape was rounded and the stubby dark bill was noted. Overall, the birds were dark brownish with a short, stiff tail and we did not identify a distinct wing pattern during the brief inflight observation of the first bird. On the water, two distinct whitish spots were seen on the side of the face; one in the auricular area and a larger one at the base of the mandible. The size was estimated to be similar to Ruddy Duck. During the last two hours of the day, we identified at least three Black Scoters (one was a juvenile), at least two Oldsquaw, and four to five White-winged Scoters at Paradise Beach (Cook County) with Kim Risen and Walter Popp. Possibly associated with a cold front and strong northerly winds, a flock of seven Oldsquaw flew by Stoney Point (St. Louis County) at 0840 on the following morning, 15 October 1989. Four of these were mostly brownish and identified as immatures. The flock stayed together in tight formation despite careening from side to side as they flew toward the northeast. Perhaps the most memorable of all was a dark waterfowl that we spotted swimming in the "surf" just east of Tofte while driving on Highway 61. We turned around and I snuck up on a moribund American Coot with a discolored bill which climbed onto the rocky shoreline and expired at my feet. **Peder Svingen and Sue Barton, 151 Bedford St. SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414.**

THE M.O.U. 300 CLUB

A total of 62 people reported life lists of over 300 species seen in Minnesota by the first of December.

1989 was not a banner year for adding birds to one's Minnesota Life List. The only bird added to the state list during the year was the Black-necked Stilt. Fortunately, a lot of people got to see these birds and were able to add at least one new species to their lists. Maybe this was the reason for the poor response on list reporting. There were lots of rarities seen in the state during 1989, which provided a lot of great birding, but not the ones that added a lot to one's life list.

Also, the dropping of the Mountain Plover, Anhinga and Chukar from the state list over the past year had a negative effect on many of the lists.

At the time this list was on its way to the printer (December 20), a new lifer for many people showed up in Duluth (the Golden-crowned Sparrow). Thus many of the totals given below are already out-of-date, at least by one, before 1990 is even here.

Bob Janssen

1. Glassel, Ray	369	32. Jerry Bonkoski	322
2. Janssen, Bob	368	32. Ken LaFond	322
3. Eckert, Kim	367	34. Byron Bratlie	321
4. Ruhme Dick	363	34. Doug Campbell	321
5. Savaloja, Terry	362	34. Steve Ekblad	321
6. Blanich, Jo	359	34. Leata Pearson	321
6. Pieper, Bill	359	38. Tammy Field	320
8. Bolduc, Don	355	38. Mike Hendrickson	320
8. Litkey, Bill	355	40. Henry Kyllingstad	317
10. Egeland, Paul	354	40. Elaine McKenzie	317
11. Campbell, Liz	352	42. Phyllis Basford	316
12. Gresser, Karol	349	42. Judith Sparrow	316
13. Johnson, Oscar	346	44. Bill Penning	314
14. Bolduc, Al	345	45. Dave Sovereign	312
15. Millard, Steve	344	46. Jay Hamernick	311
15. Nelson, Warren	344	46. Dick Sandve	311
17. Jerry Gresser	342	48. Joanne Dempsey	310
18. Jon Peterson	339	49. Ilene Haner	308
18. Gary Swanson	339	49. Doug Johnson	308
18. Dick Wachtler	339	51. Mary Enley	307
18. Gloria Wachtler	339	52. Peder Svingen	305
22. Ann McKenzie	338	53. Bruce Baer	304
23. Ron Huber	337	53. Joan Fowler	304
24. Keith Camburn	334	55. Torry Davidson	303
24. Anne Marie Plunkett	334	55. Mark Stensaas	303
26. Kim Risen	333	55. Helen Tucker	303
27. Don Kienholz	332	58. Burnett Hojnacki	302
28. Mike Mulligan	331	58. Jeris Pike	302
29. Diane Millard	326	60. Roger Field	301
30. Ruth Andberg	324	60. Alice Johnson	301
30. Bob Ekblad	324	62. Don Wanschura	300

The MINNESOTA 200 COUNTY CLUB

The big news in county listing during 1989 came from an obscure county road in Koochiching County when Ray Glassel saw a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. This was #200 for the county and gave him 200 species or more in all 87 counties of the state. Ken LaFond just missed the magic number in all counties; he still needs 200 in Nobles County. I am way behind these two. I still need 200 in 24 more counties. Just think of all the birding I have yet to do.

The totals below are from observers reporting as of December 1, 1989. If your totals aren't printed, you didn't report them. The figure in parenthesis is the composite total for the county.

Bob Janssen

County	Number of	County	Number of
Observer	Species	Observer	Species
Aitkin	(293)	Carlton	(249)
Nelson, Warren	263	LaFond, Ken	228
Blanich, Jo	262	Glassel, Ray	206
Glassel, Ray	235	Carver	(260)
Janssen, Bob	228	Glassel, Ray	231
Risen, Kim	221	Janssen, Bob	211
LaFond, Ken	218	LaFond, Ken	201
Eckert, Kim	206	Cass	(267)
Anoka	(297)	Glassel, Ray	209
LaFond, Ken	277	LaFond, Ken	206
Glassel, Ray	246	Chippewa	(241)
Carlson, Steve	237	Buer, Micki	214
Andberg, Ruth	228	Glassel, Ray	212
Janssen, Bob	223	LaFond, Ken	203
Risen, Kim	204	Chisago	(253)
Rengstorf, Dick	202	Glassel, Ray	227
Becker	(272)	LaFond, Ken	218
Glassel, Ray	215	Janssen, Bob	201
Janssen, Bob	212	Clay	(286)
LaFond, Ken	208	Falk, Laurence	246
Beltrami	(276)	Falk, Carol	244
Palmer, Jeffrey	226	Glassel, Ray	222
Glassel, Ray	220	LaFond, Ken	212
LaFond, Ken	215	Janssen, Bob	209
Bolduc, Al	209	Clearwater	(269)
Janssen, Bob	203	Bolduc, Al	245
Benton	(242)	Glassel, Ray	215
Glassel, Ray	213	LaFond, Ken	213
LaFond, Ken	212	Janssen, Bob	201
Janssen, Bob	208	Cook	(293)
Big Stone	(260)	Hoffman, Ken	262
Buer, Micki	239	Hoffman, Molly	262
Glassel, Ray	218	Eckert, Kim	229
LaFond, Ken	206	Janssen, Bob	218
Janssen, Bob	202	Glassel, Ray	216
Blue Earth	(269)	Popp, Walter	216
Frydendall, Merrill	240	LaFond, Ken	203
Glassel, Ray	220	Cottonwood	(262)
Janssen, Bob	201	Duerksen, Ed	249
LaFond, Ken	200	Glassel, Ray	212
Brown	(252)	Bonkoski, Jerry	207
Glassel, Ray	224	LaFond, Ken	201
Janssen, Bob	203	Crow Wing	(273)
LaFond, Ken	201	Blanich, Jo	243

County	Observer	Number of Species	County	Observer	Number of Species
	Glassel, Ray	220		Bolduc, Al	270
	Nelson, Warren	214		Swanson, Gary	252
	LaFond, Ken	214		Gresser, Karol	237
	Janssen, Bob	212		Risen, Kim	236
	Risen, Kim	202		Litkey, Bill	218
Dakota		(294)		LaFond, Ken	217
	Glassel, Ray	271		Rengstorf, Dick	204
	Dempsey, Joanne	260	Houston		(261)
	Gresser, Karol	247		Glassel, Ray	221
	Janssen, Bob	246		Peterson, Jon	212
	Bolduc, Al	224		Plunkett, Anne Marie	210
	Peterson, Jon	219		Janssen, Bob	208
	McKenzie, Ann	217		McKenzie, Ann	206
	Baer, Bruce	216		Risen, Kim	204
	LaFond, Ken	214		LaFond, Ken	202
	Litkey, Bill	208	Hubbard		(255)
	Plunkett, Anne Marie	203		LaFond, Ken	208
	Risen, Kim	203		Glassel, Ray	205
	Rengstorf, Dick	201	Isanti		(250)
	McKenzie, Elaine	200		LaFond, Ken	227
Dodge		(241)		Glassel, Ray	217
	Plunkett, Anne Marie	221	Itasca		(253)
	Glassel, Ray	216		LaFond, Ken	201
	Bonkoski, Jerry	206		Glassel, Ray	200
	Janssen, Bob	202	Jackson		(265)
	LaFond, Ken	200		Glassel, Ray	213
Douglas		(238)		Janssen, Bob	203
	Glassel, Ray	206		LaFond, Ken	200
	LaFond, Ken	203	Kanabec		(235)
Faribault		(237)		LaFond, Ken	220
	Glassel, Ray	208		Glassel, Ray	213
	LaFond, Ken	200	Kandiyohi		(254)
Fillmore		(255)		Glassel, Ray	220
	Plunkett, Anne Marie	238		LaFond, Ken	210
	Glassel, Ray	219		Janssen, Bob	206
	Janssen, Bob	205	Kittson		(253)
	LaFond, Ken	202		LaFond, Ken	212
Freeborn		(263)		Glassel, Ray	204
	Glassel, Ray	225	Koochiching		(236)
	Janssen, Bob	210		LaFond, Ken	219
	LaFond, Ken	202		Glassel, Ray	200
Goodhue		(284)	Lac Qui Parle		(298)
	Litkey, Bill	247		Buer, Micki	258
	Glassel, Ray	243		Buer, Chuck	247
	Janssen, Bob	235		Glassel, Ray	229
	Dempsey, Joanne	222		John Schladweiler	227
	Plunkett, Anne Marie	217		Janssen, Bob	227
	Risen, Kim	203		Litkey, Bill	222
	LaFond, Ken	200		Bolduc, Al	214
Grant		(256)		Eckert, Kim	214
	Eckert, Kim	218		Swanson, Gary	207
	Glassel, Ray	213		LaFond, Ken	206
	Janssen, Bob	207		Kyllingstad, Henry	200
	LaFond, Ken	202	Lake		(275)
Hennepin		(329)		Wilson, Steve	227
	Glassel, Ray	296		Shedd, Mary	220
	Johnson, Oscar	295		Glassel, Ray	212
	Janssen, Bob	295		LaFond, Ken	208
	Carlson, Steve	285			

County Observer	Number of Species	County Observer	Number of Species
Lake of the Woods	(256)	Nicollet	(266)
Glassel, Ray	212	Glassel, Ray	235
Eckert, Kim	210	Frydendall, Merrill	233
Janssen, Bob	207	Janssen, Bob	212
LaFond, Ken	203	LaFond, Ken	204
LeSueur	(258)	Nobles	(237)
Glassel, Ray	233	Glassel, Ray	203
Chamberlain, Horace	205	Norman	(241)
LaFond, Ken	204	Glassel, Ray	212
Janssen, Bob	202	Janssen, Bob	205
Lincoln	(240)	LaFond, Ken	201
Glassel, Ray	210	Olmsted	(288)
LaFond, Ken	201	Bonkoski, Jerry	270
Lyon	(281)	Plunkett, Anne Marie	270
Kyllingstad, Henry	262	Ekblad, Bob	261
Glassel, Ray	222	Ekblad, Steve	252
Janssen, Bob	210	Fowler, Joan	245
LaFond, Ken	200	Pruett, Jerry	236
Mahnomen	(247)	Glassel, Ray	228
Glassel, Ray	208	Tucker, Helen	214
Janssen, Bob	206	Janssen, Bob	209
LaFond, Ken	201	LaFond, Ken	205
Marshall	(293)	Peterson, Jon	204
Eckert, Kim	217	McKenzie, Ann	203
Glassel, Ray	216	Otter Tail	(295)
Janssen, Bob	206	Millard, Steve	262
LaFond, Ken	202	LaFond, Ken	215
Martin	(263)	Glassel, Ray	208
Glassel, Ray	215	Eckert, Kim	207
Janssen, Bob	202	Janssen, Bob	200
LaFond, Ken	201	Pennington	(249)
McLeod	(245)	Glassel, Ray	209
Glassel, Ray	210	Janssen, Bob	202
LaFond, Ken	202	LaFond, Ken	200
Meeker	(242)	Pine	(261)
Glassel, Ray	215	LaFond, Ken	231
LaFond, Ken	208	Glassel, Ray	222
Janssen, Bob	200	Link, Mike	216
Mille Lacs	(267)	Janssen, Bob	210
LaFond, Ken	225	Pipestone	(254)
Glassel, Ray	216	Glassel, Ray	205
Janssen, Bob	211	Eckert, Kim	202
Morrison	(256)	LaFond, Ken	201
Ryan, L.S.	219	Polk	(265)
Glassel, Ray	216	Lambeth, David	233
LaFond, Ken	213	Bolduc, Al	224
Mower	(263)	Glassel, Ray	217
Kneeskern, Ron	244	Lambeth, Sharon	216
Kneeskern, Rose	243	Janssen, Bob	214
Smaby, Richard	227	LaFond, Ken	205
Plunkett, Anne Marie	211	Pope	(241)
Glassel, Ray	210	Janssen, Bob	209
Morrison, John	210	Glassel, Ray	208
LaFond, Ken	201	LaFond, Ken	202
Murray	(252)	Ramsey	(294)
Glassel, Ray	210	Glassel, Ray	257
DeKam, Nelvina	209	Litkey, Bill	253
LaFond, Ken	200	Campbell, Liz	252
		Janssen, Bob	238

County Observer	Number of Species	County Observer	Number of Species
LaFond, Ken	226	Janssen, Bob	220
McKenzie, Elaine	217	LaFond, Ken	204
Holtz, Bob	215	Bolduc, Al	201
Rengstorf, Dick	211	Sherburne	(277)
McKenzie, Ann	203	LaFond, Ken	231
Berdan, Frank	201	Glassel, Ray	226
Red Lake	(228)	Janssen, Bob	212
Glassel, Ray	207	Sibley	(246)
Janssen, Bob	205	Glassel, Ray	229
LaFond, Ken	202	Janssen, Bob	215
Redwood	(237)	LaFond, Ken	200
Glassel, Ray	212	Stearns	(290)
Janssen, Bob	204	Eckert, Kim	238
LaFond, Ken	200	Glassel, Ray	225
Renville	(249)	LaFond, Ken	219
Glassel, Ray	226	Janssen, Bob	208
Janssen, Bob	211	Steele	(249)
LaFond, Ken	207	Glassel, Ray	232
Rice	(275)	Janssen, Bob	210
Rustad, Orwin	243	LaFond, Ken	200
Glassel, Ray	233	Stevens	(242)
LaFond, Ken	204	Glassel, Ray	207
Janssen, Bob	200	LaFond, Ken	202
Rock	(252)	Swift	(250)
Eckert, Kim	241	Buer, Micki	221
Glassel, Ray	211	Glassel, Ray	214
LaFond, Ken	202	Janssen, Bob	203
Roseau	268	LaFond, Ken	200
Glassel, Ray	212	Todd	(254)
Janssen, Bob	207	LaFond, Ken	234
LaFond, Ken	201	Glassel, Ray	214
St. Louis	(344)	Traverse	(246)
Eckert, Kim	311	Glassel, Ray	218
Hendrickson, Mike	288	Janssen, Bob	207
Camburn, Keith	284	LaFond, Ken	200
Hojnacki, Burnett	282	Wabasha	(271)
Pearson, Leata	275	Glassel, Ray	242
Johnson, Doug	274	Swanson, Gary	239
Janssen, Bob	272	Mahle, Don	237
Kienholz, Don	270	Tucker, Helen	233
Glassel, Ray	267	Risen, Kim	231
Penning, Bill	266	Plunkett, Anne Marie	221
LaFond, Ken	252	Janssen, Bob	215
Litkey, Bill	252	LaFond, Ken	206
Stenaas, Mark	251	Wadena	(255)
Risen, Kim	250	Glassel, Ray	204
Benson, Dave	242	LaFond, Ken	204
Bolduc, Al	238	Waseca	(235)
Geerts, Stephen	229	Glassel, Ray	218
Knutson, Arnold	220	Janssen, Bob	203
Swanson, Gary	217	LaFond, Ken	200
Plunkett, Anne Marie	217	Washington	(287)
Kyllingstad, Henry	212	Glassel, Ray	259
McKenzie, Ann	212	Litkey, Bill	254
Peterson, Jon	210	Dempsey, Joanne	229
Johnson, Oscar	208	Janssen, Bob	227
Sandve, Dick	205	Sovereign, Dave	226
Scott	(266)	Campbell, Liz	224
Glassel, Ray	250		

County Observer	Number of Species
Rengstorf, Dick	211
LaFond, Ken	210
Watonwan	(234)
Glassel, Ray	209
Janssen, Bob	200
LaFond, Ken	200
Wilkin	(243)
Glassel, Ray	208
LaFond, Ken	203
Janssen, Bob	200
Winona	(267)
Plunkett, Anne Marie	231
Glassel, Ray	227

County Observer	Number of Species
Janssen, Bob	216
LaFond, Ken	201
Risen, Kim	201
Wright	(265)
Glassel, Ray	235
LaFond, Ken	215
Janssen, Bob	213
Yellow Medicine	(259)
Buer, Micki	221
Glassel, Ray	217
Janssen, Bob	202
LaFond, Ken	200

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Pileated Woodpecker, 17 November 1988, Dellwood, Washington County. Photo by Jim Rupert.



Boreal Owl, Duluth, St. Louis County. Photo by Warren Nelson.

PURPOSE OF THE MOU

The Minnesota Ornithologists' Union is an organization of both professionals and amateurs interested in birds. We foster the study of birds; we aim to create and increase public interest in birds; and to promote the preservation of birdlife and its natural habitat.

We carry out these aims: through the publishing of a magazine, *The Loon*; sponsoring and encouraging the preservation of natural areas; conducting field trips; and holding seminars where research reports, unusual observations and conservation discussions are presented. We are supported by dues from individual members and affiliated clubs and by special gifts. The MOU officers wish to point out to those interested in bird conservation that any or all phases of the MOU program could be expanded significantly with gifts, memorials or bequests willed to the organization.



SUGGESTIONS TO AUTHORS

The editors of *The Loon* invite you to submit articles, shorter "Notes of Interest," and color and black/white photos. Photos should be preferably 5x7 in size. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced and on one side of sheet with generous margins. Notes of Interest should be generally less than two typewritten pages double-spaced. If reprints are desired, the author should so

specify indicating the number required. A price quotation on reprints will be sent upon receipt of information.

Club information and announcements of general interest should be sent to the Newsletter editor. See inside front cover. Bird-sighting reports for "The Season" should be sent promptly at the end of February, May, July and November to Kim Eckert. See inside front cover.

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